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LD2306132988 [Editorial Report]

Israel and Syria

Syria should realize that even if it acquires Chinese M-9 missiles, Israel's retaliation ability will remain "10 times greater" than Syria's ability to hit Israeli population centers, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned in an interview with Jerusalem television. Syria should "not even contemplate" using missiles against Israel because the latter will deal it a "death blow," he added.

On the capability of the missile which Syria is allegedly seeking to buy from the PRC, Rabin noted in remarks carried by Jerusalem radio that the M-9 is still under development, but it has a 900-km range and is "much more accurate" than the Scud.

For Syria's part, an AL-THAWRAH editorial cited by Damascus radio claimed that Israeli leaders have "fabricated a clamor" about the supply of "sophisticated weapons" to Syria to create new "pretexts" with which to pressure the U.S. Administration into supplying further weapons and military hardware to enhance Israel's arsenal.

The paper linked the Israeli "campaign" with Yitzhaq Rabin's upcoming visit to Washington, where his "top priority" will be to sign contracts for the development of antimissile missiles. Without mentioning any details of the NEWSWEEK story on the Syrian-PRC missile deal, AL-THAWRAH noted that the Israeli campaign was based on claims by a U.S. magazine "known for its loyalty to Zionism."

Israel: Occupied Territories

A curfew was imposed on the Shabura area of Gaza following riots during which one local resident was killed by IDF fire, Jerusalem radio reported. A Gaza youth had earlier fired revolver shots at a police van in Gaza, the radio noted.

In another development, a Defense Ministry spokesman cited by the radio disclosed that the IDF is currently investigating claims by Amnesty International that at least 40 people have been killed by the use of tear gas in confined spaces.

A Citizens Rights Movement Knesset member has sent Defense Minister Rabin a letter alleging that a Palestinian prisoner has become paralyzed and dumb as a result of severe beatings and torture inflicted at the Janin interrogation center, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

On the Palestinian side, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio broadcast "Call No 20" by the PLO and the "unified national leadership of the uprising," which outlined a program of further action from 24 June to 5 July. The statement urged "strike forces to strengthen their blows" against appointed municipal and village committees and against those who have not resigned from the police and tax departments.

Lebanon

Fighting between supporters and opponents of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat continued in the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila areas 22-23 June, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, noting that 14 people were killed and 37 wounded in the clashes. A Fatah dissidents' spokesman claimed that 113 'Arafat supporters in Shatila surrendered.

'Arafat has sent another message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad requesting Syrian intervention to stop the bombardment of the camps from areas controlled by the Syrian Army, Radio Monte Carlo revealed.

In Damascus, President al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah for talks on the Lebanese situation, Damascus radio reported, noting that talks were also held between Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese parliament.

Regarding the current deployment of Syrian troops in Lebanon, Radio Free Lebanon revealed that the Syrians recently extended their presence in the Iqlim al-Kharrub, an area which was hitherto mainly controlled by the Progressive Socialist Party.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes attacked and destroyed 10 oil producing and pumping targets deep inside Iran 23 June, Voice of the Masses radio reported, citing a military communique. The targets were in the Ahvaz oilfields, Bibi Hakimeh station, and Gach Saran station, the communique said. Tehran radio stated that the Iraqi raids targeted industrial installations and a residential area, noting that one civilian was killed in the suburbs of Ahvaz.

In the wake of Iran's claims to have foiled an Iraqi offensive near Mawat, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses claimed the Iraqi I Army Corps "liberated and recaptured" several strategic heights in the area.

Iran, in a military communique carried by IRNA, said it destroyed an Iraqi vessel "at the northern tip of the Persian Gulf." In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman denied the claim as "completely groundless."

Iran

Relations With France—French officials have announced that France will officially resume Iranian oil purchases and that a government decision on the issue

will be announced "in the near future," according to Tehran radio. Iran announced the appointment of its ambassador to Paris, IRNA reported. France likewise appointed its future ambassador to Tehran, according to Paris radio.

UK Parliamentary Visit—Four British members of parliament (MPs) ended their Tehran visit 22 June, IRNA reported. On arrival in London, the MP's held a news conference in which they pronounced their mission "a success," although there had been "no talk of swaps or bargains" and they were "not given any assurances" regarding the three British hostages in Lebanon, according to a PRESS ASSOCIATION report. All four British MP's said they wanted a "British diplomatic presence" in Tehran, the report said.

Afghanistan

Under an order from President Najibullah, the Army is not conducting any "active combat operations" in a number of regions on the Pakistani border "despite constant attacks" by rebels, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a news conference reported by PRAVDA.

The Afghan charge in Islamabad was summoned to the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, which protested alleged Afghan attacks on border villages, Kabul radio reported. Afghan authorities denied the allegations as "totally unfounded and untrue," according to the report.

The PDPA Central Committee held a regular plenum 22 June, Kabul radio reported. Najibullah addressed the plenum, and Central Committee members discussed "organizational" and personnel issues, the radio said.

Egypt

A fire in tents near a monastery in the Asyut region killed 47 people and injured 25, MENA reported, noting that the blaze was caused by an explosion in a butane gas cylinder.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat 'Indirectly' Endorses Abu Sharif Document

NC2306072788 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 22 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Berlin—Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has indirectly endorsed the document which his adviser Bassam Abu Sharif distributed to the press at the recent Arab summit conference in Algiers. The document was described by the U.S. State Department as "constructive."

To a question by a journalist about the proposals contained in the document and which deal with Israel's right to exist, 'Arafat said: "First, this is not the place to submit an account to the U.S. Administration. When one of my advisers expresses an opinion, they should either accept it or refuse it."

'Arafat went on to say: "If they have any questions, why should they raise them through the press? Let them ask me directly. I am quite prepared to answer the questions officially, but not through the press."

'Arafat Appeals to Al-Asad To Stop Fighting

JN2306055988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Ferocious battles continued in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah refugee camps yesterday between 'Arafat supporters and supporters of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] despite the efforts to stop the battles. Many victims fell in the clashes. The people residing near the camps left for remote areas to avoid the bombardment.

Lebanese Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss appealed to the two parties to stop the fighting, to work to achieve Palestinian unity, and to follow the example of the people in the occupied territory who put aside personal interests for the sake of the success of their uprising.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sent a mesage to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad appleaing to him to intervene directly to stop the inhuman aggression against Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah. 'Arafat expressed regret that the source of the bombardment is the mountainous areas which is under the control of the Syrian deterrent force. In his message, 'Arafat said: This is the second message I send to Your Excellency about the situation in Shatila camp which is still the target of artillery, rocket, and machinegun bombardment. Not a single wall in the camp is still standing and the entire camp has been turned into ruins, 'Arafat said.

PFLP-GC Offices in Beirut Destroyed, Looted

JN2206193888 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Abu 'Adnan, PFLP-GC secretary in Beirut, has condemned the Palestinian fighting and its creators. He said: Some rancorous groups in Shatila threw grenades and bombs and fired barrages of bullets at our offices in Al-'Uwaynih yesterday morning. Official Abu Ramzi was seriously wounded in the attack and the offices were destroyed and looted.

This indicates that those who are selling out the rights of our people and their revolution are trying to put the Palestinian arena into new catastrophes to complete their schemes without any regard to the struggle of our masses and their blessed uprising in Palestine, he said.

He added: Since the situation in the camps of our people in Beirut exploded, the PFLP-GC has been making sincere, extensive, clear, and courageous efforts to end the fighting. This fighting serves only our people's enemies and severely harms our comprehensive popular revolution in Palestine. Since the fighting broke out, we have realized that the capitulatory trend in the Palestinian arena wants the camps to remain its hostage so as to lead our masses to a state of frustration and hopelessness. This would enable this trend to draw up its programs for direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy in the near future.

This capitulatory trend, therefore, always explodes security in our camps to undermine the morale of our masses and plant despair in their souls. The evidence for this is its continued provocations and attacks against the security of our masses and their struggling forces, the latest of which was the attack against our offices.

PLO Radio Broadcasts 'Uprising' Call No 20

JN2206195188 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1654 GMT 22 Jun 88

["Call No 20" issued by the PLO, "the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising" on 22 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice can rise above the voice of the uprising. No voice can rise above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO.

Call No 20 issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising. The call of Jerusalem.

O masses of our great people. O masses of the mighty uprising with its popular and national committees. O strike forces of the uprising which deal blows to the occupation remnants with stones, incendiary Molotov cocktails, and all popular resistance means, the tumultuous popular uprising has neither subsided nor has its blaze simmered down as the occupation leaders have been deluding themselves. It intensified, scoring one

achievement after the other, and constituted a substantial moral nourishment for pursuing the march of the mighty uprising. Our people observe with evident pride the achievements the uprising has imposed on the international and Arab state of affairs.

The resolutions adopted by the uprising summit in Algiers have come to confirm the changes the uprising has imposed on the Arab world and which have restored self-esteem to the Palestinian people and their cause. The Algiers summit political resolutions have come in line with the slogans of the uprising. They have dealt a harsh blow to U.S. policy in the region and have blocked the way to Shultz' attempts to peddle his plan. They have also reaffirmed our people's legitimate national rights to repatriation, self- determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, as well as the fact that the PLO is the sole representative of our people wherever they live. These resolutions have also reaffirmed the need to hold an international conference which enjoys full prerogatives with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with other parties, as well as the provision of international protection for the sons of our people in the occupied territories.

While we praise the Algerian efforts, in the person of President Chadli Bendjedid, in convening this summit and rendering it a success, we call on its leaders to abide by its resolutions and to seriously and effectively work for implementing these resolutions.

O masses of our heroic people, by pursuing its militant march and (?dismissing) any retreat, the uprising brings our people day after day closer to the attainment of its direct objectives on the road to attaining the Palestinian people's national objectives of liberation and independence. Therefore, the Unified National Leadership emphasizes its transient objectives. These are securing international protection for our people in the occupied territories, sending international observers to supervise the implementation of UN laws, holding municipal elections under international supervision, implementing the fourth Geneva convention on the protection of civilians during war, withdrawing the army from residential areas, releasing detainees, closing the Nazi detention centers, repatriating deportees, suspending the deportation policy, and respecting human rights.

O masses of the mighty uprising, your uprising has cushioned the state of attack the Zionist authorities have launched with their methods of oppression and repression through the demolition of houses, arrests, raids, and the setting on fire and the uprooting of projects. Recent weeks have witnessed a new move by the uprising toward the escalation and the expansion of confrontations, the hurling of Molotov cocktails, and the confrontation of the scoundrel settlers, forcing the occupiers to admit their impotence.

The masses of our people are called to pursue the uprising and to participate more effectively in the formation of popular committees a special greeting to those locations in the heroic Gaza Strip, in the city of Tulkarm and its revolutionary villages, in Idnah, in the villages of the giant Hebron mountain, in lofty Bayt Furik, and in rebellious 'Abawayn against which the fascist plan of oppression and terrorism has foundered. On behalf of these locations and in the name of our raging camps, we appeal to the camps of heroism in Lebanon to work for halting the shedding of Palestinian blood in service of the uprising of our people and of their national objectives.

Our people will never forgive those who fabricate these regrettable incidents. Our people view these incidents as being a clear departure from the course of the uprising, in conflict with the efforts to realize the comprehensive Palestinian national unity, and an attempt to obstruct Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement. Our people condemn any departure from their national will. O masses of our great people, the occupiers believed that their announcement on their annexation of Jerusalem on 28 June 1967 would enable them to impose the fait accompli on our people and would contribute to making the world think Jerusalem had become united under the administration of the occupation. However, the effective and active participation of our masses in Jerusalem has foiled the calculations of the occupiers and has entrenched our masses' clinging to the capital of our aspired state with its holy places and civilized heritage.

The Unified National Leadership affirms the following:

1. The need to pursue the students' struggle to obtain the release of their detained colleagues. The Unified National Leadership calls for the enhancement of popular education for all students, particularly the Tawjihi students. It reiterates its call to the student body and to its unified committees to work for the protection of the education process by only abiding by the Unified National Leadership's decisions. It calls on officials in universities and institutes to work for the organization of academic life. It also appeals to local, Arab, and world universities to accept the detained Tawjihi students who have obtained the first semester diploma and calls on the higher education council to adopt this demand and work for its realization.

The Unified National Leadership greets the heroic merchants who are subjected to surprise tax raids, who are committed to the nonpayment of taxes, and who are determined to pursue the march with our people. It also stresses the need to bolster the confrontation with

respect to the nonpayment of all types of taxes, particularly taxes levied on factories. It calls on our heroic merchants to organize sit-ins in protest against the measures the occupation takes against them.

We praise our struggling masses in Gaza Strip for their confrontation of the occupation authorities' fascist measures, particularly in the Al-Burayj camp, in light of the resignation of its local council. We warn our masses in Dayr al-Balah against financial blackmail, which is made by some supects under national cover. The Unified National Leadership stresses the need to ignore the authorities' instructions to remove national slogans from walls and the need to form committees to secure the process of sitting secondary examinations.

The Unified National Leadership affirms its call to all employees in the departments of planning and housing, and offices of inhabitants registration and traffic, to resign immediately from their posts to achieve total separation in our masses' relations with enemy institutions. It calls on the strike forces to strengthen their blows against the appointed municipal and village committees and against those who have not resigned from the organs of police and tax.

We call on our doctors to reduce their examination charges and we call on the owners of properties to reduce the rent of properties for those who cannot pay and for those affected by the uprising.

We call on Arab countries to give democratic liberties and to release Arab and Palestinian detainess from prisons.

O masses of the uprising, while the uprising is passing through its 7th month with characteristic escalation and vigor, the Unified National Leadership asserts that in the duration of this call its program is dedicated to Jerusalem to express our people's adherence to its Arab character. The program is as follows:

1. June 24 is a day for solidarity with our heroic merchants and for protest against confiscation of properties and identification cards and against the issuing of summonses. During this day blows will be dealt to tax offices and those working in them.

2. June 25 is a day of struggle against apartheid and of solidarity with South Africa. On that day our people will unite in solidarity with all peoples subjected to racial discrimination. It will be a day of struggle under the slogan: Freedom for peoples, death for racists.

3. June 26 is a day of people's authority. On that day blows will be dealt against those who deviated from our people's will and centers of the appointed municipal committees will be attacked.

4. June 28, the day on which the occupation authorities announced their decision to annex Jerusalem, is a day of general strike to assert its Arab character.

5. June 27 and 29 are days of escalation of masses' activity and for massive demonstrations in all areas, and particularly in Jerusalem, under the slogan: Jerusalem is the capital of our Palestinian state.

6. June 30 is a day of national construction. Our masses will unite in solidarity with owners of destroyed and closed houses. All committees will offer help in reconstructing destroyed houses.

7. July 1 is a day of Palestinian heritage. On that day seminars, exhibitions, and other activities will be held to show the civil image of our national heritage and to preserve it from the attempts of deformation and extinction.

8. July 2, the 18th anniversary of the heroic strike by detainees in 'Ashqelon detention centre, is a day of solidarity with all detainess and their giant struggles.

9. July 3 is a day of national health. On that day medical personnel and health committees will conduct medical activities.

10. July 4 is a day to strengthen the formation of popular committees and strike forces and a day of storing and popular education.

11. July 5 is a day of general strike. On that day all civil administration departments will be boycotted. On that day Palestinian names will be given to schools and institutions with Palestinian [as heard] names.

O masses of our heroic people, more strikes against fascist occupiers and the herds of settlers; more strike forces, the struggling arm of the Unified National Leadership; more strengthening of the use of popular struggle methods; more destruction of our fascist enemy's property everywhere.

Glory be to our heroic people. Immortality to our virtous martyrs. We will inevitably triumph.

Signed, the PLO, the Unified National Leadership in the Occupied Territories

[Dated] 22 June 1988

Algeria

Chadli Bendjedid Addresses Final FLN Session

LD2206225488 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The 20th session of the FLN Central Committee concluded this afternoon in the Palais des Nations after 2 days of work, during which the members studied the files submitted to the session: the education system file, the national commission preparations for the sixth conference of the party, the activity of the Higher Council for Youth, and the financial management of the party.

Here is a report by our colleague Jamila Mezhoud on the final meeting:

[Mezhoud] The final meeting of the 20th session of the Central Committee was notable for the address made by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party. In his address the president said that the stage through which the country is passing is a decisive and historic one regarding the future of the nation, in the light of the economic, social, cultural and educational reforms. He stressed that the proposed reforms are the foundations of the structure of the nation, and therefore, after deep, all-round and precise analysis they must be followed up in the field, and their sound implementation must be guaranteed, so that they may benefit the nation and the national economy. After all, they are measures taken in the light of experience. [passage omitted]

Earlier, the 20th session of the party Central Committee adopted two resolutions concerning the education system and general policies. The resolution on education, instruction, and training affirms that the education system, with all its elements and branches, is the means used by society to fulfill its aspirations and the values and ideals in which it believes. These objectives are needed to eliminate underdevelopment; they seek to control the struggles of the times and technological progress.

The resolution recommends that mandatory basic education for all children be guaranteed, together with guarantees for equal opportunities for joining in further education according to preparedness and abilities. It also recommends that the programs of political and Islamic education be promoted in the various stages of the education system to instill the civic values of the nation, and for spreading the principles of November. [passage omitted]

Concerning foreign policy, the Central Committee studied and analyzed the current regional and international situation, and assessed the various facts and developments in the world. Proceeding from Algeria's adherence to the principles of freedom, independence, and the right of peoples to self-determination, the Central Committee hailed the Palestinian uprising as indeed a decisive, historic turning point in the march of the Palestinian revolution, and one which reflects the sweeping, popular nature of the uprising which has escalated continuously for 7 months against Zionist occupation and its savage and criminal practices. [passage omitted]

The Central Committee expressed satisfaction with the resumption of relations between Tunisia and the Jamahiriyah, seeing this as a good sign and firm evidence that the political will exists for the building of the Arab Maghreb. The Central Committee is also convinced that the resumption of relations between Algeria and fraternal Morocco is a decisive step for clearing the atmosphere and enabling the deep-rooted fraternal ties to overcome circumstantial disputes. The Central Committee is convinced that the resumption of these relations constitutes the revival of positive cooperation which will lead to the establishment of a strong and developed Arab Maghreb and will lay down the real foundations for a just and definitive solution to the conflict between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

The Central Committee affirms once again the will of Algeria to do all it can to ensure a rapid settlement of this conflict, in accordance with Resolution 104, issued by the OAU, and UN Resolution 5,040. The committee voices its support for the good offices made in this respect by the current chairman of the OAU and the UN secretary general. [passage indistinct]

Chad

Opposition Group Proposes 'Reconciliation'

AB2106203888 Paris AFP in French 2000 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Lagos, 21 Jun (AFP)—In a communique submitted today to the AFP office in Lagos, the Fundamental Frolinat has called for "national reconciliation, which is the only way to end the confusion in Chad." On the occasion of the 22d anniversary of the Frolinat, the Fundamental Frolinat, which is part of the opposition to the Ndjamena regime, warmly thanked the "revolutionary people of Chad for their anti-imperialist resistance," and proposed "reconciliation" between Ndjamena and "all the political and military groups opposing it," according to the communique.

Egypt

Shultz Turns Down Proposals on PLO Issue

NC2306075188 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 22 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo—According to Egyptian sources yesterday, the U.S. Administration has turned down a group of proposals submitted by Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid in a bid to resolve the question of Palestinian representation at the proposed negotiations to end the Arab-Isreli conflict.

The sources said that the proposals include, among others, holding a direct U.S.-Palestinian meeting in Cairo or in Washington. However, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz set a condition to this proposal, saying that the meeting should be held with Palestinian figures who will be named by the U.S. Administration.

The same sources added that 'Abd al-Majid presented an alternative proposal: Egypt and the PLO will name the Palestinian figures which could negotiate with the U.S. Administration in July. However, Shultz turned down this proposal as well.

Reportage on 4-Party Talks on Southern Africa

U.S. Delegation Arrives

NC2206193788 Cairo MENA in English 1914 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, June 22 (MENA)—U.S. undersecretary [as received] of state for African affairs Chester Crocker arrived here tonight leading a 12-member delegation for a five-day visit to take part in the four-power negotiations, to be held in Cairo, on peace in Angola and independence for Namibia due to open Friday.

RSA Ministers Arrive

NC2306071788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—[RSA] Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha and Minister of Defense Magnus Malan arrived in Cairo from South Africa this morning to take part in the quadripartite conference on Angola and Namibia's independence, which will open in Cairo tomorrow and last for 3 days.

Upon his arrival, Botha expressed his government's appreciation for Egypt's hosting of the conference, noting that most of the African capital cities offered to host the meeting. He stated that when Cairo offered to host it, all parties taking part agreed. He said that the conference is a continuation of the talks held in London in April and in Brazzaville in May. He pointed out that he is carrying with him his government's proposals to present to the other parties, which will also set forth their own propoals.

PACA Leader Comments on Talks With Mubarak

NC2006184288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Johnson Mlambo, chairman of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania [PACA], has described his talks today with President Husni Mubarak as very fruitful, adding that he had briefed the president on the domestic situation in South Africa and on the confrontation of the racist regime. Mlambo made the remarks at a luncheon given by Ambassador Nabil al-Salawi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Africa Department, in honor of Mlambo and the delegation accompanying him.

Mlambo praised Egypt's efforts to support the confrontation states and its continued condemnation of the racist regime at international forums. He also expressed his thanks and gratitude for the Egyptian Government's approval to reopen the PACA office in Egypt, which had been closed for financial reasons.

Mubarak Cited on Domestic, Foreign Policies

NC2106163188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that President Mubarak's meeting and talks with members of the judiciary was marked by frankness and an eagerness to explain the facts about current issues.

At the outset of the meeting, the president praised the Egyptian judges, noting that Egypt's judiciary is well-established and known for its integrity, which is a source of pride for every Egyptian. President Mubarak asserted that democracy is a difficult path to follow. However, he added, it is the course of truth, justice, and law. He said the democratic march will continue without reluctance, and that the excesses will wane under the rule of law, justice of the judiciary, and adherence to society's patriotic values.

Speaking about the domestic situation, President Mubarak said: We have economic problems, but Egypt is not the only country that faces this situation. The world's peoples and countries also share in this problem. However, despite such difficulties, we can say that we have been able to undertake a gradual economic reform process, which takes into consideration the society's capability and potentials. The Egyptian people have managed to achieve great accomplishments in recent years that will yield positive results in the future. President Mubarak noted that even though the course of reform and construction is a difficult one, it is the road to a better future.

Regarding foreign policy, President Mubarak discussed Egypt's links to the outside world, and affirmed that Egypt is linked to other countries, be they eastern or western, with balanced ties based on mutual respect and confidence, thus serving our Arab causes.

President Mubarak referred to Egypt's relations with African countries, describing them as distinguished. He said that Egypt is exerting efforts to contribute to finding a solution to Africa's problems through cooperation and coordination with the African leaders and heads of state. President Mubarak noted that the quadripartite meeting between the United States, Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, scheduled to open in Cairo in the next few days to

discuss the problem of South Africa, is an assertion of Egypt's eagerness to participate in solving the continent's problems. This meeting is also an assertion of Egypt's pioneer role and an extension of the historic role which it has played over a long period of time, he said.

President Mubarak also discussed the Arab situation, and affirmed Egypt's adherence to the interests of the Arab nations. He explained that Egypt's policy and actions are designed for the sake of the Palestinian cause and for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He also discussed Egypt's stand toward the developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the impact they have had on the region's security.

Ghali Interviewed on Soviet Role in Region
LD2206092288 Kuwait KUNA in English 0820 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 22 (KUNA)—Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali was quoted as saying in an interview Wednesday that the Soviet Union has an essential and vital role in the efforts toward a settlement for the Middle East crisis.

Ghali told the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA' newspaper the Soviet political and "realistic" presence in the Mideast crisis "constitutes a decisive element that cannot be neglected or bypassed."

He stressed that Egypt welcomes an active Soviet role in the efforts toward a settlement and is looking forward for more Soviet actions in the field of contacts with different international parties, including the U.S., Western Europe and Israel.

He emphasized that the Soviet presence in peace efforts and its positive role in the international peace conference, which is what Egypt and the Arabs are keen on, (?will) lead to better results than leaving the whole issue to the U.S. alone.

He further explained that what guarantees the Soviet Union can offer are necessary for the practical implementation of any settlement.

The Egyptian minister in an answer to a question on the recent extraordinary Arab summit conference held in Algiers, said this conference has succeeded in extending support to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

He said that an Arab consensus is needed at present so as to ensure the continuation of the Palestinian uprising in order to expose Israel and the illusions about its justice and humanity.

In an answer to another question on the fourth Mideast shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz early this month, Ghali said Egypt backs the American diplomatic efforts aiming at peace in the region regardless of the contents of Shultz' peace plan which might be different from the Egyptian point of view.

He expressed belief that the American peace plan would not succeed unless the U.S. develop it in accordance with the new facts emerged from the Palestinian uprising, particularly regarding ending the Israeli occupation of Arab lands or the leadership of the Palestinian people's struggle.

He emphasized that there is still a chance for reviving peace process if the U.S. takes a position that is more just toward the rights of the Palestinian people and its stand toward the international conference and if it takes a firmer attitude toward Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir's rejection to Shultz' peace plan.

Butrus Ghali Discusses Return to Arab League
NC1306145988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has asserted that Egypt refuses to return to the Arab League through specialized agencies, and insists that a resolution be passed rescinding the suspension of its membership in the League before its return is effected.

In a statement to the Consultative Council, which is today [13 Jun] discussing a report on "Egypt and the Arab League," Ghali said that Egypt's dignity and pioneering role in the Arab region do not permit a return to the Arab League, or the League's return to Egypt, through back doors or through the League's various agencies. He noted that Egypt hopes that a return to the League will be coupled with the collective desire of league members to overlook the negativity of the past and to press forward to establish bases of genuine Arab solidarity.

In his statement, Dr Ghali pointed out that it has become necessary for the Arab League to consolidate and develop its role in accordance with Arab and international changes in order to widen horizons for Arab cooperation with Africa. Ghali noted that Egypt sees no need to amend the Arab League Charter at present. An amendment, he said, should be postponed until Egypt's suspension from the League is ended. Thus, he added, Egypt can participate with its expertise in the committees that will be charged with amending the charter. Ghali further said: In the forthcoming stage, duplications and contradictions existing in the specialization of many Arab agencies can be abolished by merger or by disbanding some of them.

In conclusion, Ghali noted that Egypt does not impose itself on the Arab League, nor does Egypt accept any insolence regarding its prestige, pioneering role, or leadership at the Arab level. He said that Egypt is waiting for the Arabs to translate their desire for Egypt's return to the Arab League, or for the League's return to Egypt, into a unanimous decision to rescind Egypt's suspension from the League.

Abu Ghazalah Comments on Regional Issues
NC2006190088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and defense and war production minister, has stated that the Palestinians have become a force in the region in the wake of the uprising. He declared that everyone is now focusing on the Middle East problem. Abu Ghazalah stressed that peace, which he described as the safety valve for each individual, is inevitable.

Abu Ghazalah went on to say that a new political situation affecting the two superpowers has emerged on the international level. He pointed out that the U.S. presidential elections, which will take place in November, constitute an important stage for all.

Abu Ghazalah was speaking during his meeting today with members of the U.S.-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Dr Raghib Duwaydar, minister of health; Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research; Fu'ad Iskandar, minister of state for emigration and expatriate affairs; Dr Muhyi al-Din al-Gharib, deputy chairman of the Investment Authority; and Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador in Cairo, attended the meeting.

Abu Ghazalah stated during the meeting that the United States must realize that its interests lie with the Arabs and not with Israel. It must defend its interests, he said, by cooperating with the Arabs.

He referred to the developments in the Iraq-Iran war, emphasizing that this ugly and devastating war will not achieve any of the goals of Ayatollah Khomeyni's regime in Iran.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah stressed that there is not one single Egyptian soldier outside our territory. Egypt, however, helps Iraq to safeguard its national security without affecting the Egyptian military structure, he stated. He said: We help all the Arab states to safeguard their territories and national security.

Discussing the Tabah issue, Abu Ghazalah declared: We are confident that Egypt will win its case. He pointed out that the arbitration procedure is going ahead according to the agreed agenda.

Referring to Egyptian-Libyan relations, Abu Ghazalah said: There is no hatred or conflict between us and Libya, but no one knows what Al-Qadhdhafi really wants.

Asked about the Lebanese crisis, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah referred to President Husni Mubarak's statement that all foreign parties must leave Lebanon to enable the Lebanese themselves to solve their problems. In this regard, Abu Ghazalah expressed pessimism over Lebanon's future so long as foreigners continue to interfere in its affairs. He added that this interference goes against Lebanon's interests and territorial integrity. Abu Ghazalah expressed surprise that a meeting was held between the Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers in Beirut [as received] in order to discuss the situation in Lebanon, in the absence of Lebanese officials.

During his meeting with members of the U.S.-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah commended the military cooperation between Egypt and the United States, particularly where the modernization and development of the Egyptian Armed Forces and the field of Egyptian war industries are concerned. In this regard, the deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production expressed satisfaction with the fact that U.S. military aid to Egypt, which amounts to $1.3 billion, has not been reduced.

Abu Ghazalah referred to the memorandum of understanding on Egyptian-U.S. military cooperation which he signed with Frank Carlucci, U.S. secretary of defense, during his recent visit to Washington. He described this memorandum as a good accomplishment, noting that the memorandum provides for the exchange of engineers and experts and cooperation in the field of military industries. He added that the memorandum defines the framework of military cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, Abu Ghazalah explained that the budget of the Egyptian Armed Forces does not exceed 10 percent of the state's budget. He added that this figure is low at a time when Egypt is endeavoring to support and modernize the Armed Forces.

At the end of the meeting, the chairman of the U.S.-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce bestowed honorary membership on Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah.

Abu Ghazalah Speaks on National Security
NC2106194088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, met with members of the Cairo Rotary Club and the Inner Wheel Club for women today.

At the gathering he discussed the issue of Arab security. He pointed out that it is important for the Arabs to understand the nature of the dangers and threats to them, noting that the Arab nation will continue to suffer from disunity and division unless the Arab mind wakes up. Abu Ghazalah affirmed that the only way to security in the region is through peace supported by a force that is capable of defending this peace. He examined the concept of national security in relation to conflict. This, he said, is governed by the principles of strategic balance and deterrence.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah also spoke about the issues of national security in connection with the reality of Egypt's situation and that of the region. He reviewed the factors that determine a state's power and the elements that contribute to its overall strength, including resources, manpower, and military might. He also discussed the circumstances in which a state can go beyond its borders, whether peacefully or militarily, in its quest to balance these factors and elements.

Discussing the Lebanese war, Abu Ghazalah said that, as a result of the diversity of parties and allegiances, what is going on there can be described as war, under whatever name or in whatever form. He noted that this war can be termed a sectarian problem, a sectarian war, or a multiparty war raging in an Arab country. He said that its solution lies with every honest and patriotic Lebanese. He affirmed that if the Lebanese themselves reached an agreement then the problem would be resolved, pointing out that sectarian coexistence is possible if internal unity exists in Lebanon.

Abu Ghazalah discussed some chapters of Richard Nixon's recent book "Victory Without War" that deal with Third World countries and conclude that the Third World is living in a state of war called peace. It is a conflict doomed to continue until U.S.-Soviet relations have improved.

Abu Ghazalah asserted that it is not the regional parties directly involved in these continuing confrontations that are playing the starring role. They are mere pawns in a game between international powers that is governed by a very fine strategy. These powers, he added, are fighting in territories that are not their own, using the hands, bodies, and blood of peoples that do not belong to any of them. Only the weapons are theirs, he stated.

On the entry of surface-to-surface missiles into the region and the effects of this, Abu Ghazalah said that several countries have such missiles and have the full right to acquire them for purposes of self-defense. He noted that these missiles have proven the failure of the theory of secure borders, which some have advocated.

Iraqi Embassy Target of Underground Group

JN1906121288 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM—Security sources have told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that the recent interrogation of members of the Iranian-linked underground organization revealed that the organization was planning to carry out sabotage and bombing operations at the Iraqi Embassy in Cairo during celebrations to be held by the embassy this week to mark the recent Iraqi victories against the Iranian forces.

These sources said these operations were aimed at bringing about a deterioration in relations between Cairo and Baghdad in a manner that would consequently lead to an end to Egyptian support for Iraq in its war with Iran. The sources added that the Egyptian security authorities decided to examine the status of suspect Arab and Muslim students, especially Pakistanis. Furthermore, these authorities also decided to intensify security and surveillance measures around foreign publishing houses operating in Egypt to prevent the publication of books and publications that promote hostile ideas.

Publishing House Denies Link

NC2006091888 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Jun 88 p 12

[Text] We have received the following from the Dar al-Balaghah Press and Publishing House:

Dar al-Balaghah is surprised to see its name involved in a report that was disseminated by MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY and cited by various mass media on 15-16 June, linking it to an underground organization in Egypt. The house denounces such an allegation and demands that matters be verified before leveling accusations haphazardly.

It should be noted that Dar al-Balaghah has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with any party or organization. All the books displayed by Dar al-Balaghah at the Cairo book fair have been approved by the Al-Azhar Committee and the Egyptian authorities, and the house has documents proving this.

Nigerian Official Arrives for Talks 20 Jun

NC2106055688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 20 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Peter Ono, an ambassador at the Nigerian Foreign Ministry and former OAU secretary general, arrived in Cairo tonight for a 3-day visit to Egypt.

Ono is scheduled to meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, tomorrow, Tuesday. He will also hold discussions with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials to agree on a unified stand on African issues of common interest.

Meets With Ghali

NC2106155688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Peter Ono, Nigeria's special envoy, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit that will last for several days. They discussed current developments in the African arena, particularly the forthcoming quadripartite negotiations due to be held in Cairo. Mr Ono voiced his country's support for these negotiations and said he is pleased that Egypt is serving as the host country for them. He expressed the hope that peace would be achieved in the South African region.

Opposition To Boycott Local Council Elections

NC1806212988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2031 GMT 18 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—At a meeting at the Wafd Party headquarters today, the leaders of the opposition parties unanimously decided to boycott the upcoming elections for local councils.

A statement issued following the meeting said that the leaders of the opposition parties had also decided to continue to coordinate their stands in order to face the requirements of the coming stage.

Arab Nations' 'Strange Positions' Questioned

JN2206142488 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Jun 88 p 5

[Editorial: "In Whose Interests Are These Strange Maneuvers?"]

[Text] In whose interests do some countries, which belong to the Arab nation only in name and language, adopt strange positions on Egypt, the largest Arab country and the one that made more sacrifices than the others for the sake of the Arab nation? In whose interests do these countries, which represent only a minority of the countries that form the Arab League, impose their views through pressure and blackmail against the majority of the Arab League members, in order to keep Cairo away from the Arab bodies that lose much as a result of the absence of Egypt and its international, cultural, and Islamic weight?

This question has to be asked after what happened at the recent Arab summit in Algiers. Some people falsely thought that this summit would take strong Arab positions toward serious problems that the Arab nation has not faced throughout its history.

Eighteen Arab countries have resumed relations with Egypt following the Amman summit last November. These countries also hastened to repair their bridges with Cairo and restored their ties, which have been officially frozen over the past 10 years. These countries represent more than 80 percent of the members of the Arab League. Despite this, they were helpless in the face of the minority that constituted less than 20 percent during the Algiers summit. They allowed this minority to impose its opinion and achieve its suspected aims to keep Egypt away from the arena of joint Arab action.

Our question about the sides that have interests in such a position does not mean that Egypt is panting after its former seat in the Arab League, which remained in Cairo scores of years, placing heavy burdens on Egypt without even a word of thanks. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was right when he said yesterday that the issue of its return to the Arab League does not preoccupy Egypt, and that the real goal of Egypt's policy is to unify Arab ranks within or outside the Arab League, because unity of the Arabs is the strongest weapon in dealing with the fateful Arab causes.

Shultz' Remarks, Motivation Criticized

PM2106114988 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jun 88 p 12

[Mahjub 'Umar article: "Shultz and Independent Palestinian State"]

[Excerpts] Shultz came....Shultz went! This is the fourth time the U.S. secretary of state has come to the region of Arab-Israeli conflict since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in occupied Palestine.

Although, by his admission and the admission of all other parties, the direct reason for Secretary Shultz' visit to the region is the new situation created by the uprising, Shultz, in his replies to questions put to him by Egyptian editors, insisted on repeating his claim that the uprising has not produced any practical results.

To answer this claim, it is enough to ask Shultz: Why, if not because of the uprising, has he come to the region, and why has he repeatedly said that the interests of the United States and its friends in the region will be threatened if the uprising continues and spreads into neighboring countries?

Shultz' view of the achievements of the uprising is in stark contrast to every honest opinion which sees the uprising as a revolution of people who have rights—in this case the Palestinian people. Suffice to say that the uprising has rearranged priorities in the region. [passage omitted]

Suffice to say that the world has finally awakened, having been brainwashed by the Zionist and U.S. media with talk about international terrorism. It has awakened to see the State of Israel, with the assistance, protection, and knowledge of the United States, invade a sovereign state thousands of miles from it and land forces there to assassinate one man—Commander Abu Jihad in his home in Tunisia—as a way of striking at the uprising in occupied Palestine. The state which has been shedding crocodile tears over acts of terrorism against it, has

committed the ugliest act of state terrorism and found protection for it and its crimes in the U.S. veto at the Security Council. [passage omitted]

When Shultz emphasized U.S. opposition to the idea of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, he said that he could not see a practical basis for the creation of such a state. [Egyptian journalist] Lutfi al-Khuli did well to ask him to explain that. His reply had nothing to do with any practical basis as known in political science. Shultz just said that Israel would not agree.

So, to Shultz a practical basis means Israeli approval! And still he claims to be a mediator trying to resolve the conflict when in actual fact he has, from the very beginning, been partial to everything that meets Israeli approval. [passage omitted]

If Shultz thinks that Israel's approval represents the practical basis for a settlement or ways of promoting a settlement, then he is selling illusions and using U.S. clout to peddle a defective Israeli commodity.

Strictly on the basis of political science, an independent Palestinian state is not only possible, but also already exists lacking nothing except official international recognition.

The uprising has projected, confirmed, and laid down the foundations of an independent Palestinian state in a manner not seen in many of the surrounding Arab states, not to mention scores of other states in the world.

The Palestinians have succeeded in building a network of organized relationships allowing regulation of daily life under the most difficult conditions imposed by the occupation authorities. [passage omitted]

The most serious part of Shultz statements was his assertion that he came to the region at the request of U.S. President Reagan to confirm the latter's interest in and determination to make efforts to create a positive atmosphere for moves toward peace (AL-AHRAM 5 June). This means that the United States does not consider the present atmosphere to be positive and believes that it must be changed. The obstacles, in the U.S. view, are the insistence on complete withdrawal and on an independent Palestinian state. As regards Shamir's rejection of the idea of an international conference; well, Shultz is trying to find a way out for him.

So there is a threat to the PLO. Shultz is playing for time until there is an atmosphere which the Israelis would consider positive. In other words, an atmosphere that would allow them to impose the Israeli peace which means Arab surrender. Since the PLO is the obstacle, plots against it and plots to kill its leaders will escalate. Some reports to that effect were actually leaked last week. There is no doubt that the U.S. secretary discussed ways of implementing that with his men and in Israel. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Zairian President 21 Jun

LD2206124988 Rabat MAP in English 1202 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Rabat, June 22 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Tuesday President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire who is on a private visit to the Kingdom since Saturday. The meeting was attended by Hamani Diori, former president of Niger. [passage omitted]

Receives Mauritanian Minister

LD2206125788 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Rabat, June 22 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Tuesday Mauritanian Minister of the Interior Djibril Ould Abdellahi who had arrived in Morocco Monday with a message from Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to the sovereign.

The audience was attended by Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri and the Ambassador of Mauritania to Rabat, Mahfoud Ould Lemrabott.

Sudan

Reports of U.S. Pressure on Government Denied

JN2206173088 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 21 Jun 88 p 14

[By Yusuf al-Shanbali]

[Text] Khartoum—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih has said that Sudan will not allow any state, no matter how strong it may be, to interfere in its internal affairs. The minister denied reports that the United States is pressuring the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to negotiate with the rebel movement, headed by John Garang in southern Sudan. The minister also denied that the United States had asked Sudan to cancel Islamic laws to make its peace efforts in the south of the country a success.

On the other hand, the minister asserted that his country will respond in kind to Kenya if it does not close Garang's rebel movement aid office.

General Claims Rebels Suffering 'Disarray'

JN2206192488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, June 22, (SUNA)—The rebel movement of Col. John Garang was suffering severe ebbing and disarray as a result of the recent intensive military operations launched by the Armed Forces, Deputy Chief of Staff General Al-Sir Muhammad announced.

Hailing the high capability and the successful achievements scored by the Armed Forces in the battlefield Gen Muhammad stated that more than 19 rebel camps at the border areas between Kordofan and Upper Nile regions were totally leveled by the Armed Forces.

Following a visit to Halbaiyet "western Sudan" Gen. Muhammad said "saving the needs of the Armed Forces were atop the priorities of the political leadership."

Tunisia

Iraqi Minister Arrives on Official Visit

LD2106191188 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Tunisia this afternoon on an official visit. The Iraqi host was welcomed at Tunis Carthage International Airport by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

INA Reports Talks 21 Jun

JN2206070588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jun (INA)—The meetings of the joint Iraqi-Tunisian committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation began here tonight.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and Iraqi first deputy prime minister, and Hedi Baccouche, Tunisian prime minister, reviewed developments in relations between the two fraternal countries and expressed their sincere desire to expand them further into all fields.

Ramadan and Baccouche also expressed their full satisfaction with the progress of the committee's work, the deep understanding which dominated the atmosphere of the talks, and the agreement on exploring new fields of cooperation—such as tourism and culture—in addition to existing economic, commercial, and scientific cooperation.

Ramadan affirmed Iraq's enhanced capabilities to defeat and destroy Iranian aggression against Iraq. He said Iraq today is stronger than it was several years ago and more capable of crushing the aggressors, thanks to the means it has acquired for the achievement of final victory.

Ramadan said the near future will see major victories on all battlefronts and that the Iraqi forces are determined to inflict the greatest losses on the Iranian aggressors in order to liberate all territories.

Ramadan explained that Iraq's approach—which is peace backed by power—will continue according to the great principles upheld by the Iraqi people and their determination to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 in accordance with the sequence of its paragraphs and clauses.

Ramadan discussed the Iranian aggression's threat to Iraq and to the Arab nation as well as its hostile plans and ambitions to occupy Arab territory.

Ramadan stated that the Iraqi economy is solid and is getting stronger as the war proceeds, thanks to sound planning. This, he said, has foiled enemy plans to disrupt Iraq's development and pan-Arab obligations.

Ramadan praised Iraqi-Tunisian relations and their development in all fields. He spoke highly of Tunisia's support for Iraq, saying Tunisian moral support is an additional source of strength for Iraq in the legitimate defense of its territory.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche praised Iraqi-Tunisian ties and said: We have longstanding and historic relations that have constantly developed throughout the past. He affirmed that Taha Yasin Ramadan's visit to Tunisia will strengthen and consolidate Iraqi-Tunisian relations.

Baccouche said: The growing development taking place in Iraq underlines Iraq's increasing economic capability despite the war. The substantial economic achievements accomplished during the war confirm that the Iraqi people will have a prosperous future under their wise leadership.

Baccouche lauded Iraq's pan-Arab role in strengthening Arab ranks and supporting the Palestinian uprising on the basis of its national stand.

Baccouche added: The Tunisian leaders and people harbor respect and appreciation toward Iraq and admire its spirit of self-sacrifice for the sake of the Arab nation. He praised Iraq's victories in Al-Faw and Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] and its liberation of strategic heights in northern Iraq and said: These victories are the result of the Iraqi people's firmness and capability and the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn who has planned and supervised all the battles for liberation.

The first session of talks ended late tonight. The Iraqi delegation to the talks was headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; while the Tunisian side was headed by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

The two sides discussed economic, technical, tourist, and industrial cooperation between the two countries. Ministers and experts from the two sides attended the talks.

Oman

Further Reportage on Visit by Richard Murphy

Received by Defense Official

JN2206151688 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] His Excellency Al-Mutasim ibn Hamud Al Bu Sa'id, minister of state for defense affairs, received at his office in [name indistinct] camp today Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, and his accompanying delegation. They exchanged opinions and reviewed issues of common interest. A number of officials from the Defense Ministry attended the meeting.

Discusses Economic Relations

JN2206152188 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] His Excellency Muhammad ibn Musa al-Yusuf, under secretary for financial affairs at the Finance and Economy Ministry, received this morning His Excellency Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, who is now visiting the country.

They reviewed economic and financial relations between the United States and the Sultanate, the activities of the U.S. private sector, and encouragement of U.S. investments in the region. His Excellency al-Yusuf explained to Murphy the economic and financial policies followed by the Sultanate since 1986 in the wake of the drop in the oil prices and the methods to overcome the difficulties and problems resulting from this drop in prices.

Received by Sultan Qabus

JN2206210788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Muscat, 22 Jun (WAKH) — His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman has received a written message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The message was delivered by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, when his majesty the sultan of Oman received him here today. Muscat Radio, which carried the report, said nothing about the content of the message.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Inaugurates Construction Projects

LD2206202488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Summary from poor reception] Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Peoples' Council, accompanied by a number of party officials, ministers, and officials in Lahij Governorate, laid the foundation stone of the (Labuth) water project this morning. The project comprises the sinking of wells in Wadi Bana, the construction of dams, and the installation of pumping units.

Al-'Attas also inaugurated the 306.6 km Al-Habilayn military road. This is the first phase of the Al-Habilayn-(Labuth) road. The overall cost of the Al-Habilayn military road and the Wadi Bana bridge is estimated at 5,624,656 dinars. The projects are being supervised by the Ministry of Installations and Housing.

Also this morning, Al-'Attas inaugurated the first phase of the Radfan power grid project, which covers the Al-Habilayn, Habil al-Jabr, and Habil al-Raydah Districts and Al-Milah village.

Salim al-Bid Meets with Soviet Oil Experts

EA2206201088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, at noon today in Ataq, Shabwah Governorate, met with Soviet experts who are working in the oil exploration project in the governorate.

During the meeting he heard a detailed explanation on the progress of work in the project. The brother secretary general praised the efforts of the Soviet experts in oil exploration. He expressed his gratification concerning those efforts over the past years. He stressed that the discovery of oil and its exploitation in our country would have a practical role in reinforcing the material base of the socialist-oriented system in our country and in reinforcing the bonds of Soviet-Yemeni friendship.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid asked the Soviet experts and Yemeni workers to exert more efforts and increase the rate of work. He stressed the necessity of training Yemeni cadres and exchanging experience in field surveying and prospecting for oil and its derivatives. He also stressed the importance of the masses' participation in construction work and laying oil pipes to speed up extraction and exploitation of oil. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid arrived in Ataq this morning on an inspection visit to Shabwah Governorate. [passage omitted]

He then paid a visit to the Ataq electricity project being implemented by the public electric power corporation and acquainted himself with the progress of work on the project and the phases of its implementation. The brother secretary general urged the supervisors of the project to exert more efforts to accomplish the project on time to comply with the needs of citizens, economic establishments, and projects in the capital of the governorate.

About 25,000 people will benefit from the first phase of the Ataq electricity project, the cost of which is 885,000 dinars. It comprises three 1,200 kw electricity generators and is scheduled to open next October. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Murphy Discussed Bipartite State

LD2206020588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Jun, SPA — THE WASHINGTON POST today, Tuesday 21 June 1988, citing what it called Palestinian sources that did not identify themselves, pointed out that the assistant U.S. secretary of state had asked the Saudis to ask the PLO whether it was behind Bassam Abu Sharif's article on the desire of the Palestinians to recognize Israel and set up a bipartite state, and that one of the sources had said yes.

In reply to this an official source told SPA that what THE WASHINGTON POST mentioned and what it assumed in this context are unfounded, as Mr Murphy did not pose such a question during his meetings with the Saudi officials. This issue was not discussed with him at all.

Yemen Arab Republic

Al-Iryani Views Yemeni Ties, Regional Scene

PM2206144188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jun 88 pp 1-2

[Fadiyah al-Zu'bi report: "YAR Foreign Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Unity Constitution To Be Submitted to Legislative Councils Soon"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa — Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that by the end of this month or the beginning of next month a date will be set for submitting the "constitution of the unity state" to the legislative councils in both parts of Yemen for approval. He said that the steps taken so far are very good, particularly after the 4 May Aden meeting between YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Socialist Party.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Dr al-Iryani said that travel between the two parts of Yemen on identity cards only will begin early next month. [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani described Saudi-Yemeni relations as fraternal and special in all fields including economic, commercial, and cultural fields, likewise relations between the peoples of the two neighboring countries. He referred to the special care and treatment that Yemeni nationals receive in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He added he wished that relations between the two countries, which have reached a highly advanced stage, will be seen as an example to be followed with other countries.

Al-Iryani praised the results of the Algiers summit conference, describing the final statement as being closer to realism than to ambitions. It was, he said, the best statement issued on the Palestinian question in that it was calm, balanced, and reasonable.

He said the statement was a clear signal to Iran that all Arab countries stand equally firm in defense of Arab rights and that if Iran had banked on one Arab capital's being more flexible than another, the Algiers summit statement was a strong message to Iran that no Arab country will be lenient when it comes to defending Arab rights.

Asked why he said the statement was closer to realism than to ambitions, Al-Iryani said the statement did not close the door to a just peace and did not reject peace initiatives by name, but did reject any initiative not recognizing Palestinian rights.

Some people, he said, perhaps expected the U.S. initiative to be rejected by name — and it is considered implicitly rejected because so far it has not recognized the Palestinian people's rights — but the point was not to name and condemn the latest initiative in particular but to leave it open to negotiation and discussion.

He added this was even the view of the Soviet side, which is not in favor of outright rejection of any initiative and prefers to take the positive aspects and seek amendment of the negative aspects. [passage omitted]

INLA Issues Communique on Mehran Operation

JN2206125788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun (INA)—The Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] has announced that the Al-Thurayya al-Kubra operation to occupy the city of Mehran was completed last night after 3 days of fighting, and that all objectives were achieved. The INLA said in Communique No 6, broadcast by the Mojahed Radio monitored here today, that in this operation its forces killed 8,000 soldiers from the forces of the Khomeyni regime and captured 1,500 Iranian soldiers, including more than 30 officers, one of them holding the rank of colonel.

Communique No 6 added that the opposition forces destroyed seven military regiments, one support regiment, three artillery battalions, three mechanized infantry regiments, one commando regiment, five armored regiments, and two artillery battalions, in addition to destroying engineering, supply, and maintenance regiments and medical units affiliated with the 16th Armored Division, Qazvin.

The communique stated that the Al-Thurayya al-Kubra operations also resulted in destruction of the Esfahan and Fujin [name as received] artillery battalions from the Dhulfiqar [name as received] Division, as well as destroying other regiments from the M-2 Division and the 92d Armed Division, which came from Ahvaz to support the forces of the Iranian regime.

Communique No 6 stated that the INLA forces took control of the headquarters of the 16th Armored Division and the 11th Guard Division, along with the communication centers and depots affiliated with them.

Communique No 6 noted that 22 strategic heights near the area of operations were captured by the opposition forcees. It added that two strategic bridges were completely destroyed. One of the bridges is to the north of the area of operations and the other to the east. The bridges link Mehran with Ilam and with Dehloran.

The communique stated that experts estimated the losses of the Iranian regime in this operation at approximately $1 billion as a result of weapons, equipment, and emplacements being destroyed or seized. The communique added that moving the items seized to the rear lines would continue for several days. The communique noted that such equipment includes 40 tanks, 20 armored vehicles, scores of recoilless 155-mm and 130-mm guns, and TOW missiles, as well as large quantities of weapons, hardware, military vehicles, and other equipment.

The INLA announced that its forces had also seized all secret documents belonging to the occupied positions. INLA said that these documents will be published later as there are many of them.

The INLA said that during the course of the operations it lost only 71 martyrs and 220 wounded.

Use of Chemical Weapons at Mehran Denied

JN2206191888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun (INA)—Iraq today denied Iranian allegations that the Iraqi forces attacked Mehran last Sunday [19 June] using chemical weapons.

In a letter handed by 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's permanent UN representative, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and distributed among the UN Security Council members, Iraq announced that the Iranian allegations are completely groundless.

Kittani referred to Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim's statement that the Iraqi forces did not attack Mehran, but it was the Iranian National Liberation Army which carried out the attack. Based on this, the issue is an Iranian one and Iraq has nothing to do with it.

The letter said that the culture and information minister had completely denied any use of chemical weapons.

He indicated that whenever the Iranian regime faces a military defeat or setback it resorts to its conventional maneuvers to justify it by lying about the use of chemical weapons.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,224

JN2206143988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,224 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And it was due from us to aid those who believed [Koranic verse]. God's certain victory is imminent. Thanks to God Almighty, victory accompanies every heroic deed performed by the glorious Iraqis in their battles to defend their land, honor, religion, and holy places, and in their offensives to recapture their land and purge it of the filth of barbarism and aggression.

Since the greatest Ramadan Mubarak battles, which will continue to be the most prominent event in our nation's contemporary history of liberation, Iraq's glorious men continue to deal painful blows to the advocates of sedition, destruction, and backwardness. They also continue to chase enemy remnants, eliminate many of their scoundrels, and purge Iraq's land in battles which will continue to be a source of pride for the Iraqis and the Arabs.

We march from one victory to another. This expresses our leader's ingenuity and brilliance in running the conflict on all its levels. This also confirms that the basis of victory is inside men's chests. This was expressed by our leader who said that we are superior on the strategic level and we become more superior with the passage of time.

O great Iraqi people. O sons of our valiant Armed Forces. O brothers in Arabism. After your brave, faithful soldiers in the heroic I Army Corps managed to liberate the (Ahmad Rumi), (Hudal), and (Waylanah) mountain ridges, as well as the Galalah Heights, the heroic I Army Corps forces under Staff Major General Sultan Hashim Ahmad began to complete the Ahmad Rasul Allah operations. The Al-Mustafa forces under Staff Brigadier General Ghanim Sultan 'Abdallah launched a sweeping offensive at 1200 [0800 GMT] on 20 June to regain and purge the Safra and Pasveh heights.

After heroic fighting the like of which can only be carried out by the men of Iraq, the faithful young men managed to purge and liberate these heights with all their peaks which our units have completely controlled. The situation there was settled in favor of our victorious forces. At midnight on 21-22 June, the heroic Al-Mustafa and Al-Mansur Forces under Brig Gen Amir Jasim Hammu and under the supervision of the Corps headquarters launched a blitzkrieg offensive to liberate and recapture the (Kurdeh Rush) mountain ridge and (Bardeh Sur) mountain.

These areas are of extreme importance for purposes of strategy and mobilization. When these areas were desecrated by the Magian Persians, the deputy of the 20th century's charlatan, Rafsanjani, said that they were mini Al-Faw operations in northern Iraq. This charlatan added then that the war would be inside Iraq's Kurdistan. God has frustrated him. Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], and our heights in the northern part of the homeland have been liberated.

The fighting has continued violently for 3 days. During this time our columns clobbered the dens of aggressors, inflicting bitter defeats on them. With efficient and great support from our heroic Air Force, the daring Army aircraft, our brave artillery, infantrymen, and armored and engineering units, our brave men climbed the peaks, one after another. They destroyed enemy positions, killing a large number of the enemy scoundrels, capturing some of them, and forcing the others to flee, leaving behind their weapons, hardware, and equipment.

Our valiant men of the Al-Mustafa and Al-Mansur Forces in the heroic I Army Corps, thanks to the prominent role of the chiefs of staff on all levels, raised the lofty Iraqi flag in the sky. Our men purged the following strategic border heights at our international border in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate: The (Kurdeh Rush) Mountain and (?Bardeh Sur) Mountain with their peaks—1,426, 1,424, 1,418, 1,391, 1,378, 1,360, 1,335, 1,326, 1,317 north, 1,317 south 1,316, 1,248, 1,197, 1,185, 880, and 870 meters. [sentence as heard] Our fighters tightened control over the Little Zab River at our international border.

Thus, the immortal battles of the heroic I Army Corps and the battles which preceded them affirm that time is shaking the regime of charlatans, and Iraq, thanks to its leader's wisdom and bravery and the rallying of the people around him, will remain glorious, victorious, and lofty before the entire world. Meanwhile, the disappointed, illiterate, and mercenary Iranian rulers will continue to wrestle each other with the daggers of treachery and crime scorned by the world. They will remain defeated in the face of Iraq, the master. This is God's favor to us because we are pious believers.

The soldiers of the heroic I Army Corps and all fighters of our valiant Armed Forces will keep their pledge to their leader and their people to safeguard the territory and preserve the principles. As our men in the I Army Corps fought like their grandfathers in the Al-Qadisiyah and Al-Yarmuk battles, all our Armed Forces will record the most splendid and shining epics in the history of the nation.

Long live the Iraq of well-being and love behind the flag of its great leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. Praise be to God, who granted us in the Muhammad Rasul Allah operations the strength to confront the enemies.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 June 1988

Communique No 3,225

JN2206164988 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,225 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. The noble knights of the helicopter gunships continued their sorties over enemy units in the sectors of operation, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's scoundrels, weapons, and equipment.

After carrying out 337 combat missions, they returned with their planes safely to base, God be praised.

2. A brave force from one of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector carried out a successful raid on opposite enemy positions. The force managed to destroy the postiions and kill or wound their occupants. The force then returned safely to base.

Elsewhere in the same sector, the following was achieved:

—Nine of the scoundrels were killed

—One vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed and another was damaged.

—Four ammunition dumps were blown up.

3. A valiant force from one of our units in the II Army Corps central sector raided enemy positions opposite it. After destroying these positions and killing their occupants, the force returned safely to base.

Elsewhere in the same sector, four gun emplacements, two observation posts, and two machineguns were destroyed.

4. Two enemy personnel were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. One single-barrel machinegun, three infantry positions, and one mortar emplacement were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 June 1988

Spokesman Denies Boat Destroyed

JN2206185888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1803 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad Jun (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations that the Iranian Navy has destroyed an Iraqi boat in the northern Gulf as reported by an Iranian military communique.

In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said that Iran's allegations in this regard are completely groundless and that no naval battle has occurred in the northern Gulf between Iranian and Iraqi naval units. He said all that happened was that two Iranian boats attempted to approach the Al-'Amiq Port last night. At 10 km from the port, the port force compelled them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

Communique No 3,226

JN2306090588 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,226 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 June]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Today, following our victories in the blessed Ramadan and Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah [we relied on God] battles, as well as in the Al-Anfal and Muhammad Rasul Allah operations, our heroic Air Force, which played a prominent and honorable role in achieving these glorious deeds, dealt to the Iranian regime, the agent of Zionism, backbreaking blows against its revenues and oil-producing sites, in order to deprive the enemy war machine of this vital revenue and to aggravate the enemy's deteriorating financial and economic situation. This morning, large numbers of our planes carried out the following heroic missions:

1. At 0930 [0530 GMT] today, blows were dealt to six oil-producing targets in the oilfields of Ahvaz I and II.

2. At 0957 a number of our planes dealt two blows to an oil-producing target and an oil-pumping target at the Bibi Hakimeh station.

3. At the same time, blows were dealt to two targets at the Gach Saran sation.

Hence, our planes destroyed ten oil-producing or oil-pumping targets deep inside Iran. Your rapacious hawks managed to penetrate the enemy air defenses with their known skill and dealt severe blows to these targets. They left all these targets eaten up by fire and covered with clouds of smoke. After carrying out all these duties, all our planes returned safely to the homeland in God's care and protection.

Perhaps, following these defeats, the Iranian regime will well realize that its objectives of aggression have vanished, that it has lost the war in all areas, and that the only alternative to Iran's total collapse is to accept the road of peace based on right.

Glory and pride to our heroic Air Force with its command, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Let us proceed to great victory. God's promise will be fulfilled soon.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 June 1988

Rabin Warns Syria on Striking Population Centers
TA2206173088 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by unidentified correspondent on 22 June; place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Rabin] The Syrian leaders should realize that despite the Scud, the SS-21 and Frog missiles, and even if they manage to obtain M-9 missiles, Israel's retaliation ability is ten times greater than Syria's ability to strike at our civilian population centers. Syria should not even contemplate using these means because we will deal it a death blow.

[Correspondent] Does that mean that Israel has answers to the possibility of Syria obtaining M-9 missiles?

[Rabin] Yes.

[Correspondent] Mr Rabin, is Israel doing anything to prevent this deal?

[Rabin] We do not have the power to do that.

[Correspondent] Did the Americans deliberately leak the information to foil the deal?

[Rabin] I do not know who leaked it to NEWSWEEK, but I am not sure that making the deal public knowledge will indeed foil it.

Rabin Defends Lebanon Pullout, Security Zone
TA2206114988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jun 88 p A7

[Report by Me'ir Hare'uveni]

[Excerpts] "The government's decision to pull the IDF out of Lebanon and set up a security zone along the border has been proven right. There is no doubt in my mind that this was the correct decision to make." The above was stated yesterday by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at a news conference in Nahariyya on the occasion of the 3d anniversary of the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

	1985	1986	1987	1988	total
No of infiltration attempts	5	3	10	10 Tc28	
No of civilian dead	-	-	-	-	-
No of civilian injuries	-	-	4	7	11
No of IDF dead	2	8	18	7	35
No of IDF injuries	19	53	64	20	156

No. of terrorists killed since 1 June 1985 by IDF and South Lebanese Army soldiers in the security zone or on the border: 360

Discusses 'Potential Threat'
TA2206113988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has described as a potential threat the Chinese M-9 missiles, on the supply of which he says there have been contacts between Syrian and Chinese officials. Rabin was speaking in the north:

[Begin Rabin recording] To the best of my knowledge, this missile is not in existence as an operational missile even in China. It is a missile that is still under development. It might be that the Chinese are short of money and they would like to make the deal with Syria at the present stage to use the advance payment for the continuation of the development of the missile.

The basic differences between the Scud and the M-9 is in range and accuracy. The range of the Scud is 300 km. The M-9's is 900 km, three times more. Second, the accuracy of the Scud is the kind to make it suitable only for attacking large sized targets, like centers of population, while the M-9 is much more accurate, even though we do not know the exact figures, because it does not exist as an operational missile.

The United States and the Soviet Union, after signing the INF, refrain from supplying missiles beyond the range of 500 km to any customer, I believe, in the world. [end recording]

Rabin Affirms Deportations, Demolition Continue

TA2206165588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the policy of selective deportations will continue, and houses will be demolished or sealed off if their owners are apprehended for terrorist activities. Authorities will also continue resorting to administrative and economic measures to prove to residents of the territories that the civilian uprising does not release them from Israeli authority. Minister Rabin was replying to motions on the Knesset agenda.

Rabin also reported that some 9,000 residents of the territories are currently under detention, including 5,500 in IDF lockup facilities and some 4,000 in civilian prisons. This was reported by our correspondent Gid'on Remez.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 22 June adds: "Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that 200 local policemen in the territories who had submitted their resignations have returned to work because the PLO's promises to pay half their wages did not materialize. The PLO did not fulfill its promises to other groups in the territories either. Mr Rabin said that Israel's efforts have significantly arrested the flow of funds to violent elements in the territories. Nevertheless, there is still a problem with money changers—not just Arabs—and with Israeli banks and Jewish-Arab partnerships."]

Shamir on Relations With Soviets, IDF Efforts

TA2206201888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated this evening that the IDF and security forces are doing an excellent and difficult job in quelling violence in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and elsewhere. These forces are protecting Israel's population, and they deserve the support and backing of the entire nation.

Mr Yitzhaq Shamir was speaking at the closing session of the Zionist Executiv in Jerusalem this evening. He added that the IDF and security forces understand very well that we must terminate the dangerous wave of violence that is sabotaging our life throughout Eretz Yisra'el.

The prime minister asked Israel's Arabs not to confront Israel with the choice of them or us because the answer would unequivocally be us.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that in its activities to quell violence, the IDF takes political constrictions into consideration and does not seek to inflict unnecessary deaths. In the prime minister's opinion, we will live in peace with these Arabs in the future.

Referring to his talk with the Soviet foreign minister in New York, the prime minister said that Mr Shevardnadze told him that the destination chosen by Jews leaving the Soviet Union is none of Moscow's business, and promised him that the condition of Jews would improve as a result of upcoming changes in the domestic policies of the Soviet Union.

The prime minister said U.S. statements about the irrelevancy of the Camp David Accords were very worrisome and gave rise to apprehension, because if the United States were to ignore its Camp David commitments Israel would not have faith in agreements and commitments proposed in the future.

The prime minister said that Jews in the United States are afraid to come to Israel, and this has a detrimental effect on the morale of Israel's citizens. The prime minister's remarks were reported by our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1930 GMT on 22 June adds: "Israel yearns to return to a relationship with the Soviet Union like the one that existed between the two countries when the State of Israel was established. The prime minister went on to say that the Jewish people have not forgotten how the Soviet Union extended political and security support to the State of Israel in its first difficult hours. Consequently, Shamir said, the current absence of diplomatic relations between the two countries is an anomaly that can only be rectified by the Soviet Union without demanding anything in exchange. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein adds that referring to the recent wave of arson and the murder of Eliyahu Kohen, the prime minster said: These incidents prove we are experiencing a wild and murderous phenomenon that is the result of the fanatical hatred harbored by those who want to see Israel's citizens dead, and want to destroy everything we have built and constructed on this land."]

Shamir Praises IDF for PFLP Members' Capture

TA2206103488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0930 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Shamir praised the IDF soldiers for the capture of the terrorists this morning. Following are his remarks:

[Begin Shamir recording] Our forces captured the band. This time they were captured alive, and this will give us an opportunity to get more information on the repeated attempts to infiltrate into the Galilee. This is another success for the security set up in the north. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 22 June reports on the clash with the terrorists, adding that "they belonged to the PFLP, led by George Habash."]

Joint Projects With Yugoslavia Considered

TA2206205988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Israel and Yugoslavia will examine possibilities of launching joint industrial projects based on raw materials frequently traded by the two countries. This was agreed in a meeting between Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon and a high-level Yugoslav trade delegation.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Minister Sharon asked the delegation members to exercise their influence on the Yugoslav Government in order to reduce customs duties on Israeli imports.

Hungary, SFRY Cancel Entry Visa Requirement

TA2206111288 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by Arye Arad]

[Text] Hungary and Yugoslavia no longer require that Israelis obtain entry visas in advance. Visas are now being given on demand at border checkpoints or at airports. It is estimated that some 70,000 Israelis will visit East European countries this summer.

The requirement on obtaining visas was canceled in secret. The offices dealing with tourism to East Europe passed the word among each other.

MK, Party Member Meet PLO Officials in Europe

TA2206123388 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Jun 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Moshe 'Amirav, member of the Center Movement, and a left-wing Zionist party Knesset Member [MK] have recently held separate meetings with PLO officials in Europe. The meetings were initiated by official Israeli elements wanting to establish regular contacts with the PLO.

The MK, who wished to remain anonymous, held meetings in Paris with Abu Mazin ['Abbas Muhammad], member of the PLO's executive committee in charge of Israeli affairs, and other PLO activists. 'Amirav, who was expelled from the Likud for meeting with PLO members, conferred with Khalid Salam, a PLO representative. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Studying Abu Sharif Document

TA2306103788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Gay Bekhor, and agencies]

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem is studying the document written by PLO spokesman Abu Sharif entitled: Chances For a Palestinian-Israeli Settlement. The Palestinian document, which aroused great excitement in the United States, reached senior officials in the Foreign Ministry yesterday. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry believes there are certain new points in the document but does not ascribe too much importance to them, especially in view of declarations by other PLO elements that contradict the document's contents. [passage omitted]

Termed 'Political Diktat'

TA2206111588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jun 88 p 10

[Editorial "Trifling With Peace"]

[Text] Some reputedly well-meaning Palestinians have expressed surprise over the lack of response to a document submitted to the U.S. State Department last week by Basam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Titled "Prospects For a Palestinian-Israeli Settlement," the document purports to advance a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which would meet what is described as the common objective of both Israeli and Palestinian, lasting peace and security.

The State Department's reasons for so far failing to respond to that PLO document are obviously its own. But the reasons Mr. Abu Sharif has not won any thunderous applause for his proposals in Israel, even among critics of Likud policies, should plainly be stated.

There is admittedly one striking novelty in Mr. Abu Sharif's document: its language. Never in the PLO's history has its purposes been wrapped in so alluring a phraseology of peaceful intent. That true believer and father of the original Palestinian Covenant, Ahmad Al-Shuqayri, must be turning in his grave. Mr. Abu Sharif even proposes direct talks between the PLO and Israel's Government, whoever its leaders may be, under a UN-sponsered international conference.

Talks, yes, but hardly negotiations. Mr. Abu Sharif rejects the idea of any foreign power imposing a settlement on the parties. What he proposes instead is that Israel simply endorse of its own volition what may reasonably be viewed as the first stage in the PLO programme. In exchange for the PLO's acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338, Israel will accept the "other" UN resolutions "which do recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people."

Israel will recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination and a state of their own. It will, after an internationally-supervised referendum in the West Bank and Gaza, accept the PLO as rightful heir to Jordan in these areas. It will, like the Palestinians, accept international guarantees of its security. These guarantees, it appears, will serve as a substitute for a peace treaty in which the independent state of Palestine might formally recognize Israel's rightful statehood.

In short, the supposed peace document to which Mr. Abu Sharif appended his name is a political diktat in the guise of a propoal. That the leaders of three "radical" PLO factions—Nayif Hawatimah, George Habash and Ahmad Jibril—have tossed it out of the window, does not make it more deserving.

The document ends with the open threat that, if left unsatisfied, the Palestinians will continue to exercise "the right to resist the occupation," which Mr. Abu Sharif does not offer to suspend even for the duration of the "peace talks." Such trifling with peace will, however, get the Palestinians nowhere, certainly not when considered against the background of the macabre slaying Sunday night of Eli Kohen, the peaceful moshavnik from Shetef, inside Israel.

Amnesty International Tear Gas Charges Refuted

TA2306061488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Amnesty International has demanded that Israel examine its use of tear gas in the territories. The organization claims that at least 40 people, most of them babies and old people, died as a result of tear gas inhalation. The organization says that IDF soldiers used tear gas grenades, originally designed for use in open spaces, in closed places. The IDF also allegedly used these grenades as a means of inflicting punishment in addition to using them for the dispersal of demonstrations.

The Defense Ministry spokesman said that the matter is currently under examination. He said that the tear gas used by the IDF is employed by police forces around the world to quell demonstrations. The IDF spokesman says that the gas is not hazardous and that orders against using it in closed spaces have been issued. The IDF spokesman criticized Amnesty International's sources, saying they are biased.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 23 June in a page 2 report on the investigation adds that a "senior military source" who was responding to the report "insisted that the IDF uses tear gas only to break up demonstrations, and not as a means of punishment."]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Riots in Rafah; Soldier Injured

TA2206202188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] There were riots in Rafah in the Gaza Strip this evening, during which local inhabitants hurled stones at an IDF unit. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that one soldier was slightly injured in the hand and was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheva.

Arab sources said several rioters were wounded, including a 13-year-old boy. IDF sources say that soldiers did not open fire in Rafah this evening.

1 Reported Dead in Rafah

TA2306043488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] The army are investigating the circumstances behind the death of a resident of Rafah in the Gaza Strip after a demonstration last night. The army spokesman said soldiers fired in the air when they found themselves in danger during the demonstration. A 20-year old Rafah resident was injured and taken to Khan Yunus hospital, where he died.

Stabbing Attempt on IDF Member

TA2206121688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] An inhabitant of the territories tried to stab a civilian employed by the IDF at a shooting range near (Khirbat 'Alim) in the Lakhish district. He was later captured near Idna, south of Mount Hebron.

The incident occurred when the civilian and a member of the Green Patrol, who were driving around the shooting range, tried to expel two Arab shepherds. One of the shepherds approached the civilian, tried to stab him, and then ran away. The two Arabs were pursued to Idna, with the aid of a helicopter, where the man suspected of the stabbing was detained, our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat reports.

3 Injured in Bus Stoning

TA2306110388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Three youngsters were slightly injured when the bus they were traveling in was stoned on the Shu'fat road north of Jerusalem. Reporter Steve Rodan says Arab school girls leaving class threw stones at an Egged 25 bus, smashing windshields and slightly injuring the passengers.

About 1/2 hour ago students returning from school sparked disturbances on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem. Police arrived and the students fled.

Charge Injures 'Terrorist'

TA2206124188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] On Monday, an improvised charge exploded in the hands of a terrorist while he was placing it at the entrance to the Nabulus municipality. He was injured by metal shards, received medical treatment, and was then arrested.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that yesterday the terrorist reconstructed the event.

2 Wounded by IDF in Nabulus

TA2206154288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] This afternoon, two Nabulus residents were slightly wounded by IDF fire as soldiers dispersed riots in the Nabulus casbah. Our correspondent Moti Amir learned from a military source that masked youths gathered in the casbah area, hurled stones and bottles at IDF soldiers, and flaunted PLO flags. An IDF force dispersed the rioters, wounding the two residents.

Update on Strikes, Arsons

TA2206161988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] A full commercial strike was observed today in Judaea and Samaria. Businesses remained closed, as did the Ramallah municipality. The other municipal authorities functioned normally.

The majority of workers also went on strike, while public transportation was only partially operating. At the same time, the anticipation of multiple fires was proven false, as only one fire—near the village of Hablah—was started.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 22 June, in a separate report on today's fires, adds: "There were eight fires today, of which only four of them were the result of arson. This is an interim figure as reported to police headquarters. Today was to have been arson day, as declared by the leadership of the uprising in the territories."]

2 Schools in Nabulus Closed

TA2206202788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Today in Nabulus, the Civilian Administration ordered two schools closed for 2 days. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat was told by Civilian Administration sources that the schools were closed due to irregularities [as heard] and low attendance by students. Two other schools had been closed yesterday. All the schools will remain closed until the end of the week.

1 Killed by IDF Fire in Gaza

TA2306055288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] A curfew has been imposed on the Shabura neighborhood of Gaza following yesterday's riots which resulted in the death of a local resident by IDF fire. One IDF soldier was slightly wounded in that incident. He was taken to a hospital last night.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that during yesterday's riots in Shabura, an IDF unit found itself in danger. The unit eventually fired in the air in order to disperse the demonstrators.

The 12-day curfew imposed on the Al-Burayj refugee camp will be lifted this morning. It was also reported that the curfews on the Jabalyah and Khan Yunus refugee camps have likewise been lifted. A curfew has been imposed on the Al-Shati' refugee camp. The curfew in the center of Gaza continues.

Update on Curfews in Gaza

TA2206112188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Downtown Gaza is under curfew. Security forces today imposed curfews on the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. There were demonstrations by women at the Al-Shati' camp this morning, and a general strike is under way in the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the curfew on the Al-Burayj refugee camp is now in its 15th day. The Khan Yunus refugee camp is also under curfew.

Stone Throwers Appeal Rejected

TA2206180988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] A ruling issued by the High Court of Justice states that stone throwers consciously take a risk and should therefore be properly punished. Justices Aharon Baraq, Shlomo Levin, and Hanokh Ari'el thus rejected an appeal concerning the stiff sentence given to two Arab youngsters who threw stones at a bus. One of the youths had been sentenced to 1 year in prison, given a 1-year suspended sentence, and fined 5,000 shekels. The other youth had been sentenced to 6 months in prison, given a 6-month suspended sentence, and fined 4,000 shekels.

In their ruling, the justices pointed out that those who try to sabotage the foundations of society by force should expect society to react with utmost severity.

283 Reported Killed in Unrest

TA2206135788 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 22 Jun 88 p 10

[Report by Orit Zerubavel]

[Text] According to information previously released by the IDF spokesman, on the number of casualties reported as of 20 June, the total number killed during the uprising stands at 218.

This week, the IDF spokesman reported that 159 persons have been killed by IDF soldiers' fire. This number does not include casualties from settlers' gunfire and persons killed in other circumstances.

Palestinian sources, however, report 283 dead according to the following breakdown:
—190 killed by IDF and settlers' fire
—55 killed by inhaling poisonous gas
—17 killed by beatings and electrocution
—21 killed in unclear circumstances.

Views Unchanged by Uprising

TA2106144688 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Jun 88 p A9

[Text] The research institute of Modi'in Ezrahi, headed by Dr Rahel Yisra'eli, studies from time to time the public's views on the future of Judaea and Samaria. Comparison of the surveys over a period of time shows that the present distribution of answers is very similar to that of November 1984, and over the previous years.

The comparison shows that 3 to 5 percent are prepared to give up all of East Jerusalem for peace, while 43 to 48 percent are not prepared for any concession.

Some 8 to 12 percent are prepared to agree to the evacuation of all the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria while 30 to 38 percent are not prepared even to accept a freeze on new settlements.

The attitude of many respondents to the question of whether Judaea and Samaria is an integral part of the State of Israel is apparently linked to ideological considerations based on religious or security concepts.

The fact that public opinion has not changed since the last elections apparently shows that this concept is stable and is not significantly influenced by political events.

Do you support a peace agreement with Jordan in which Israel would commit itself to evacuate territories in Judaea and Samaria? [Following are the various answers, with the table of percentages provided below]

A. In favor of giving up all of Judaea and Samaria, including East Jerusalem.

B. In favor of giving up all of Judaea and Samaria, excluding East Jerusalem.

C. In favor of giving up certain parts of Judaea and Samaria.

D. Opposed to any concession.

E. Did not respond. [Figures for 4/87 as published]

	4/88	12/87	4/87	10/86	2/86	6/85	1/84
A.	4.9	5.6	4.4	3.1	4.8	15.6	17.9
B.	14.8	13.6	15.4	14.4	12.3		
C.	35.7	32.1	32.0	31.8	36.3	34.4	35.7
D.	43.4	44.4	46.4	47.7	43.6	46.7	43.4
E.	1.2	4.3	1.9	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.0
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

In return for a peace agreement with Jordan...

A. Are you prepared to give up all the settlements in Judaea and Samaria?

B. Are you prepared to evacuate some of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria?

C. Are you prepared only for a freeze on new settlements?

D. Are you not prepared even for a freeze on new settlements?

E. Did not respond. [Figures for 4/87 10/86, 6/85, and 11/84 as published]

	4/88	12/87	4/87	10/86	2/86	6/85	11/84
A.	11.8	10.7	9.2	7.0	10.1	7.9	8.6
B.	28.9	27.2	26.0	22.0	24.2	20.7	23.1
C.	20.9	22.1	23.9	30.9	25.5	27.8	32.1
D.	35.7	34.1	37.9	36.6	35.9	35.0	29.6
E.	2.7	5.9	3.1	3.6	4.3	4.1	3.2
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

U.S. Policy Change on 'Occupied' Lands Lauded

TA1706152988 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 17 Jun 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Unified Arab Stance—The Only Guarantee for a Positive U.S. Change"]

[Text] By following remarks made by U.S. officials, we discern a positive change in the U.S. position regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. In an interview with NBC television network this week, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said that Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights—Arab territories occupied in 1967—are occupied lands and should, therefore, be subject to negotiations between the parties concerned. This statement by a senior U.S. official indicates that Washington is moving towards the establishment of peace in the region.

Prior to this, Shultz himself said that Washington should adopt more balanced steps toward assisting the parties to the conflict in reaching a final settlement based on the principle of land for peace, and a balance between the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and Israel's right to

survival. This remark by Shultz is an implicit acknowledgment that up to this point, U.S. policy in the Middle East has not been balanced. In other words, it means that the United States has realized this fault and is trying to remedy it.

These principles stated by Shultz constitute a tangible change in the U.S. position, but it remains to be seen whether this change is put into practice. Will the U.S. Administration, which is in the last months of its tenure, be able to implement these positions by means of a new policy? And who can guarantee that the new administration will approach the conflict similar to the departing administration after an agony lasting 8 years?

Bitter experience has taught us that U.S. administrations, including the present one, immediately back down from any position rejected by Israel, as if U.S. policy is hostage to Israel and its supporters.

Perhaps the only reason for reassurance concerning this recent U.S. change in policy is that it occurred after the convocation of the last Arab summit conference which resulted in a unified Arab stance and stronger Arab solidarity with the Palestinian cause. This alone is a definite guarantee for perpetuation of the constructive U.S. change, and prevention of Washington's retreat from its positive positions.

Murphy Remarks Said for 'Foreign Consumption'

JN2306100388 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Jun 88 p 1, 16

[Editorial: "Statements for Foreign Consumption"]

[Text] Richard Murphy's vague statements, which he has been making during his extensive tour of the Middle East—which comes after George Shultz' fourth tour—vary in form and objective according to where they are made. Some people are even surprised that such statements are uttered by a U.S. official.

An intriguing question arises for observers: Why does Richard Murphy continue to make promises through repeated statements?

Why does he merely make statements without paying attention to the reactions they cause so that he may modify or insist on them?

What does the U.S. envoy want from the capitals he is visiting? What reaction is he expecting from them?

Why does the U.S. Administration continue to play the same tune for deaf ears and demand another familiar tune?

Does Murphy believe what he says? Is he serious in the ideas he presents? If so, to what extent does his administration agree with what he says or adopt what he is promising?

Why doesn't the U.S. Administration announce something new if the statements of its envoy to the region reflect its position?

What is the philosophy behind keeping the U.S. ideas on continuous show by Murphy, after Shultz left the region neither happy nor angry?

What new element will Shultz bring during his fifth visit to the region in September, if the visit takes place?

For political and tactical reasons, the U.S. Administration seems to be playing for extra time between its frozen ideas and its departure. It knows that its performance in the region is still hostage to the Israeli viewpoint. It neither wants to deal with the new facts and developments, nor does it want to come into in harmony with the virtually unanimous international consensus on the need to convene a fully-authorized international peace conference, called by the United Nations and attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as all the parties to the conflict.

It is through such a conference that a full and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its central issue—the Palestinian question—can be achieved.

As long as U.S. statements go no further than a ceremonial international gathering, and hide behind the call for direct bilateral negotiations without recognizing the legitimate national rights of Palestinians and without dealing with the Palestinians' legitimate representative, these statements do not provide anything new. They neither advance the policy nor serve the peace process. They are made for foreign consumption.

We were hoping that the U.S. Administration and its envoys to the region would understand the new facts in the region, and deal evenhandedly with the parties to the conflict for the sake of stability and security.

We also hoped that the U.S. Administration would respond at some time to, and continue effective work on, the basic principles of the Arab position, which Jordan conveyed to the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz through the six principles handed to him.

If the U.S. ideas are not accepted in the region, it is because the intransigent Israeli position continues to impose itself on U.S. Middle East policy, keeping it hostage to its aims and views.

Perhaps not everybody in the region will say "no" to Murphy, but they can say "yes, but."

Can he answer the "but," which Shultz left behind him?

Reportage on Inter-Palestinian Fighting

Clashes at Burj al-Barajinah

NC2206164388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The war of the camps continued sporadically today while attempts to deal with the fighting continued to revolve within a vicious circle. According to the latest reports, intermittent clashes between Fatah and the dissidents erupted in Burj al-Barajinah camp shortly before 1600.

Intermittent exchanges of gunfire are also being reported from the Shatila camp.

Cease-Fire Announced

NC2206194188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] During its meeting in Mar Ilyas camp, the central follow-up committee announced an immediate cease-fire in Burj al-Barajinah camp. The committee urged compliance with the cease-fire, which goes into effect now.

'Arafat Urges Al-Asad To End Shelling of Camps

NC2306061088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GNT 23 Jun 88

[Text] The Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps were the scene of ferocious fighting between pro-'Arafat gunmen and dissidents last night. However, the intensity of fighting subsided this morning, except for exchanges of bursts of machinegun and rocket fire.

A new development in the camps war emerged yesterday, represented by the surrender of 75 pro-'Arafat fighters in Shatila as a result of the fierce fighting which broke out there 2 days ago.

[In a similar report, Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 23 June adds the following: "The PNSF Command addressed an appeal to the Shatila camp residents, confirming that no harm will befall those who leave the camp, and guaranteeing their safety and lives. The command also accused the 'Arafat group of firing at those trying to leave the camp in order to escape the tragedy facing the camp residents."]

Meanwhile, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has urged Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to issue instructions to stop the shelling of the camps. 'Arafat maintained that the shelling originates from areas under the control of the Syrian forces in West Beirut.

In his message, which is the third of its kind to the Syrian president, 'Arafat expressed his regret over what he termed the inhuman aggression to which the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps are being subjected from areas that are under the control of Syrian forces.

Lebanese Forces Accuse Hubayqah in Car Bombing

NC2206105488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The car bomb explosion which took place near the Al-'Aramuni building in the Al-Badawi area at 1050 today left about 19 people wounded and caused material damage and a fire. [passage omitted]

A responsible security source in the Lebanese Forces has made the following statement: At 1045 today, an old model Mercedes 220, chassis number 98267201510511, rigged with 10 kg of TNT, exploded in the Al-Badawi area on a street near a car repair garage. The explosion left one person dead and several others wounded.

A second vehicle, a green BMW 520, also rigged with a quantity of explosives, was found near the first vehicle. The bomb, which was set to detonate a few minutes after the first car exploded in order to inflict the largest number of casualties among those who normally rush in after every explosion to rescue the wounded, was consequently defused.

The security source added: The hand that placed this car bomb is the same one that placed the Al-Rumayl car bomb and many other explosive charges in peaceful neighborhoods in the free areas so as to cause a state of confusion and kill the largest possible number of innocent people.

The accusing finger, the source said, is being pointed at Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces leader] and his followers, who in the past have practiced and are today still practicing the game of killing innocent people in cold blood. It is the only means left to them that reminds others that they still exist.

USSR Embassy Warns of Sidon Area 'Explosion'

NC2306080988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD reports that the Soviet Embassy in Beirut has warned that important developments will take place east of Sidon and in Iqlim al-Kharrub. The embassy passed the warning on to PNSF, PFLP, and DFLP representatives. AL-ITTIHAD cites an embassy official as saying that Moscow has information about a possible explosion of the situation in Sidon and its environs on the eve of the presidential elections.

Speaker Al-Husayni Returns From Damascus Talks

NC2206195688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni returned to Beirut tonight after meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus.

Al-Husayni said he was briefed on the results of the Algiers summit and on the meeting between the Lebanese and Syrian presidents. He added that, in the wake of his talks, he would describe the Al-Jumayyil-Al-Asad meeting as constituting a big new opportunity. This opportunity, he continued, should be utilized to achieve national reconciliation among all the Lebanese and ensure that the next presidential elections are held on schedule.

In this way, the continuity of Lebanon's legitimate authority will be safeguarded and the country saved from its tribulation, he said. The results of the meeting and the positive atmosphere it has created should not be squandered for the sake of shortsighted and selfish interests, he declared, adding: We must take major steps to make the reconciliation reflect positively on the presidential elections.

Al-Huss Stresses Syrian Role; Says War Ending

PM2106155388 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 13 Jun 88 pp 1,11

[Unattributed interview with Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated that the extension of the security plan to Beirut's southern suburb was a significant achievement in the efforts to restore stability to the capital and end the tragic conditions prevailing in the southern suburb, in addition to being a step forward toward the fulfillment of the Lebanese people's aspiration to reunify the capital and remove the dividing barriers.

In an interview with TISHRIN on the security situation in Lebanon and future prospects, Dr al-Huss said: The Syrian forces, which are Arab deterrent forces, are deployed in large areas of Lebanon in order to maintain security, stability, and order. Any contemplation of a shift from the state of war to a state of peace in Lebanon must be based on a security plan covering all Lebanese territory. No such plan is possible unless Syria plays an essential and effective part in it.

Dr al-Huss said that the role of the militias in Lebanon has come to an end. He added: I believe that the civil war as we have known it the past 10 years is also at an end, because there is nothing to suggest that any partisan military organization is considering trying to settle the issue in its favor or is preparing to confront other organizations. I believe that the continuation of the state of war is no longer possible under the circumstances. So the weapons must be removed and there must be no more military action in Lebanon. Political struggle and political interaction should be restored now that the logic of arms has finally failed—that is, if ever there was such a thing as the logic of arms. [passage omitted]

On the issue of presidential elections, Dr Salim al-Huss said: We attach great importance to the election date because it will be a new opportunity to confirm Lebanon's unity under one legitimate authority. Agreement on the election of a new president, representing the unanimous Lebanese view that Lebanon's unity must be preserved, would be the appropriate answer to the role of those people bent on fragmenting Lebanon or working for its partition. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that the Lebanese Government has not yet agreed on any significant specific steps regarding the work necessary to ensure safe passage for the date of achieving constitutional maturity, because of prevailing abnormal conditions and because that would require a high degree of national accord and solidarity within the government, which is not available at this point.

Dr al-Huss said that the approach to the constitutional date should proceed on two parallel lines, one political and the other related to security. There has to be some political endeavor to achieve a level of national accord in order to polarize the national will and make it possible to take a joint step on the maturity date.

He emphasized that Damascus has been the center of many efforts and activities aimed at clearly defining Lebanon's political and security needs, in terms of achieving the desired formula for government until such time as the main national aspiration, which is abolition of political sectarianism, can be achieved.

In conclusion, the Lebanese prime minister confirmed that Syria has worked and continues to work for security and political stability in Lebanon out of an interest in Lebanon's salvation.

Paper Cited on Reported 'Sophisticated Weapons'
JN2306072488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT Jun 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Background and Aims of a Fabricated Clamor," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial today: Based on claims by a U.S. magazine known for its loyalty to Zionism, the Zionist enemy's leaders have fabricated a clamor about sophisticated weapons which were said to be on their way to Syria.

The nature and timing of this clamor are not strange. This is because the enemy's leaders and news media, in cooperation with the Zionist news media in some western states, particularly in the United States, has accustomed us to such campaigns whose aim is clear.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Such clamor has always been linked to Israeli preparations to acquire further sophisticated weapons to destruction. These weapons are placed at Israel's disposal by the United States as part of the continued efforts to promote the Israeli arms arsenal in a way that conforms with the nature and tasks of each phase of expansionist Zionist aggression.

This being the case, it is not strange that the timing of the new campaign precedes enemy war minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington—a visit whose top priority is to sign contracts granting the Zionist entity programs to promote antimissile missiles. This [as heard] program has tasks that go beyond those of the Star Wars program which the Zionist entity has joined.

The paper continues: Hence, Washington and Tel Aviv seek to fabricate pretexts to suply the Zionist entity with sophisticated weapons. Meanwhile, Washington tries to deceive and preoccupy Arabs with initiatives on a settlement. However, these initiatives have thus far failed to offer anything that may promote a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Therefore, there should be preludes to Rabin's trip to Washington—preludes that, as usual, will evoke fears about the Arab armament and concern over the Zionist entity's destiny.

Through such exposed propagandistic methods, the Zionist entity tries to blackmail U.S. public opinion and taxpayers. It also tries to pressure the U.S. Administration to provide further weapons and sophisticated military hardware to enhance Israel's war arsenal so that it can maintain its superiority over the whole Arab nation, continue its intransigence and rejection of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and manage to retain the policy of aggression and expansion at the expense of Arab lands and rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Such misleading campaigns cannot deceive anyone as long as their aims are clear. These aims focus on supplying Israel with further weapons and tools of aggression. This confirms U.S. hostility to the Arab nation through enabling Israel to continue its aggression against Arabs and supplying it with the requirements of this aggression.

Japan's Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 22 Jun
JN2206154388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and his wife arrived in Damascus today on a visit to the SAR. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, the heads of the Asian and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, the Japanese ambassador, and Japanese Embassy staff in Damascus.

In a statement to journalists upon arrival, Uno expressed his pleasure at visiting Damascus. He expressed hope that his visit would bear fruit.

Al-Shar' welcomed Uno and expressed hope that their talks will be constructive and fruitful.

Meets With Al-Shar'
JN2206212688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Damascus—Official talks were held this evening at the Foreign Ministry between the Syrian Arab side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Japanese side led by Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno.

During the talks, Uno presented the results of the industrial states summit conference, which was held in Toronto, and the role played by Japan in that summit. The talks concentrated on means to develop the established relations of friendship and cooperation between Syrian and Japan in all fields.

The talks also dealt with the current situation in the region. Uno asserted Japan's support for establishing just and comprehensive peace in the region which is based on total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and securing the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and establishing their independent state.

The viewpoints were in agreement on the convening of the international conference for peace, under the auspices of the UN and with the participation of the concerned parties, including the PLO and the five permanent UN Security Council member states.

On his part, Al-Shar' stressed Syria's interest in establishing just and comprehensive peace in the region based on implementation of the UN resolutions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. Al-Shar' explained the dangers of the Israeli expansionist policies

on security and stability in the region and the role of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories in expressing rejection of the continuation of Israeli occupation.

Calls for 'Flexibility'

OW2306035488 Tokyo KYODO in English 0327 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Damascus, June 23 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno has called for Syrian flexibility toward a U.S. proposal to hold an international conference on peace in the Middle East, his aides said.

Uno sought Syrian cooperation for early settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute during a two-hour meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' Wednesday.

Uno arrived here earlier in the day on the first leg of a Middle East tour to initiate a more active Japanese contribution to peace in the region as part of its "globalization of Japanese diplomacy," the aides said.

In the meeting with Al-Shar', Uno mentioned the Toronto summit's "Chairman Summary" on declaring support for moves to bring peace to the region.

He also touched on the initiative pursued by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz aimed at finding a solution to the problem and urged the concerned parties to cooperate fully to that end.

Uno pledged increased Japanese contribution to peacekeeping in the region, the aides said.

After Syria, he will visit Jordan, Egypt and Israel. He is the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Israel.

Uno told Al-Shar" Japan's traditional Middle East policy will not be affected by his visit to Israel on June 26-27 and added Japan will continue to demand withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He is scheduled to visit a refugee camp on the West Bank and meet Palestinians.

Al-Shar' said Japan has never been more actively involved in the dispute between the Arab nations and Israel, and expressed his appreciation of this.

As for holding an international conference, Al-Shar' said its function must be clearly identified and proposed that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, plus Syria, Jordan and Israel, be included in the conference.

The five permanent UNSC members are the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain.

Turning to bilateral issues between Japan and Syria, Uno said aid for the 300 million-dollar Latakia power station project and a plan to invite 10 young Syrians to Japan next year are also being considered, the aides added. He will return home June 28 from Tel Aviv via Paris.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses PDPA Central Committee

LD2206224288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] A regular plenum of the PDPA Central Committee was convened today, 22 June. Esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of Afghanistan, delivered a speech on the duties of party organizations with regard to the armed defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, the national reconciliation policy, and the defense of people's democratic values.

In the speech, he emphasized that the period since the all-party conference and the PDPA Central Committee plenum in Jadi [22 December 1987 to 20 January 1988] has been full of incidents fully proving the rightness and practicality of the party's policy, the national reconciliation policy, through which we have achieved clear political successes. We also took steps toward reconstructing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neutral and nonaligned Afghanistan.

General elections for the country's parliament were held in line with the Constitution. As many as 1.6 million of our compatriots took part in the election campaign. In its first session, this parliament granted a vote of confidence to the new government headed by Esteemed Muhammad Hasan Sharq. In the speech he maintained that the creation of the new state structure has been completed. Over this period, acts in the form of assembly [jirgah] diplomacy have entailed the strong central power of parliamentarianism, and the observation of the sacred religion of Islam and of national customs and traditions.

Similarly, The Republic of Afghanistan's readiness to consistently implement its undertakings emanating from the Geneva accords was stressed, as well as the nonobservation of these accords by the extremist opposition, which is backed and incited by the Pakistani militarists. Comrade Najibullah concluded in his speech that the consolidation of the new state and the implementation of the Geneva accords were fundamental factors in determining the present living conditions of society as a whole and the activities of the PDPA.

Also mentioned in this fundamental speech was the fact that if peaceful efforts to search for all-round compromise do not lead to favorable results, the party is ready to organize the armed defense of the creative peaceful process in accordance with the Constitution and for the further development of society.

Comrade Najibullah's speech was listened to attentively and received warmly by the participants of the plenum. They were:

Comrades Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, minister of interior; Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security; Sar Faraz Muhmand; secretary of the Nangarhar provincial party committee; Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of general staff; Farid Mozdak, DYOA first secretary; Muhammad Rasi, secretary of the Badakhshan provincial party committee; Zabihullah Ziarmal, director of the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry of Defense; Nasir Ahmad Mayhanpur, secretary of the Faryab provincial party committee; Nurul Haq 'Ulumi, martial law administrator and commander of the II Corps [title as received]; Khoday Nur Bawar, secretary of the Helmand provincial party committee; Muhammad Daud Azizi, commander of the IV Corps; Khan Muhammad, secretary of the Paktia provincial party committee; and Muhammad Azim Zormati, commander of the Defense of the Revolutionary of the Ministry of Interior. They discussed the fundamental speech by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA and president of Afghanistan.

The PDPA Central Committee unanimously passed a resolution approving the proposals and conclusions contained in the speech of Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of Afghanistan.

The plenum recommended the urgent and undelayable mobilization of all forces for defense of the revolution, the national democratic structure of our society, and the maintenance of peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan. The resolution envisages further measures with regard to the combat readiness of the Armed Forces, and improvement in the work of the PDPA and DYOA primary organizations in the units of the Armed Forces. The tasks of the PDPA Central Committee with regard to intensifying PDPA primary party organizations and their transformation into a source of reliable support for the national reconciliation policy and the organization of the country's armed defense were defined.

The plenum remarked with full confidence that in these difficult moments for the Afghan people, the PDPA primary party organizations, along with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, will act as the fundamental organizers of the Republic of Afghanistan's defense of the democratic achievements of the revolution.

The PDPA plenum unanimously elected Cormade Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo as secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

The PDPA plenum also discussed some organizational issues. It promoted to full membership in the PDPA Central Committee: Comrades ('Abdul Qader Ata), air force and air defense commander; (Muhammad Juma Atsak), commander of the northern operative group; (Yar Muhammad), first deputy minister of state security;

and Muhammad Azim Zormati, commander of the Defense of the Revolutionary the Ministry of Interior. It also unanimously elected Barakzay, commander of the III Corps, and Muhammad Daud Azizi, commander of the IV Corps, as full members of the PDPA Central Committee.

The plenum also decided to expel Comrade 'Abdul Qader, former ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan to Poland, from membership in the PDPA Central Committee. In addition, the PDPA Control Committee is charged with taking into consideration his party membership.

The plenum approved the message of the PDPA Central Committee to the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

The plenum ended in an atmosphere of revolutionary jubilation, comradely unity and solidarity, and resolutely decided to implement national reconciliation and defend the democratic achievements of the revolution.

Wakil Message on Geneva Accords Progress

LD2206181388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of Afghanistan, has sent the following message to New York addressed to His Excellency Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general:

Your Excellency Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general:

Your Excellency, it is with much pleasure that I recall my meeting with you in New York where I had an opportunity to inform you about the progress of implementing the Geneva accords. I am confident that your meeting with Esteemed Najibullah, Afghan president, has helped you see the current situation more clearly. I am confident that this exchange of views and your pledge to use your moral influence for the purpose of the complete and honest observance of all aspects of the Geneva accords by the relevant parties will prove fruitful.

With regret, I must inform you that Pakistan, in a continuous and ceaseless manner, is violating the Geneva accords, and the activities of UNGOMAP in Islamabad are very limited as a result of Pakistan's indifferent and irresponsible approach. Until now, 22 June 1988, Pakistan has committed 213 violations of the Geneva accords, which has been conveyed to UNGOMAP in Kabul through 31 memoranda.

Now we look forward to your envoy, Mr Diego Cordovez', visit to the region and we hope he will inform us about the result of your efforts in this respect.

Your Excellency, please accept our best wishes.

Signed, 'Abdul Wakil, Afghan foreign minister

News Conference Held on Geneva Accords 22 Jun

LD2206215688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] A news conference was attended by domestic and foreign journalists today in the Storey Palace of the Foreign Ministry concerning the implementation of the Geneva accords and Afghanistan's observation of them and Pakistan's violations.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reported that the person in charge of the Foreign Ministry liaison office with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Afghan Defense Ministry replied to journalists' questions on the circumstances of Afghanistan's implementation of the Geneva accords and the Government of Pakistan's continuous violation of these accords.

At the news conference, information was also given about the measures Afghanistan has taken to implement the documents of the Geneva accords and to repatriate refugees to the country.

Pakistani Border Shelling Charges 'Groundless'

LD2206171688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, where the following points were made to him by the director of the first political section:

The charge d'affaires of the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad was recently summoned to the Pakistani Foreign Ministry where it was mentioned to him that Afghan artillery forces allegedly attacked parts of Chaman and the village of Alizay, located 10 km from Chaman, on 3 and 14 June 1988.

The relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, after serious investigation and assessment, report that the accusations made by the Pakistani authorities about the Afghan artillery forces shelling of the above regions are totally unfounded and false. Therefore, we regard the protest made by the Pakistani authorities in this respect as groundless and we reject it.

The Republic of Afghanistan hopes that the Pakistani authorities will refrain from such unfounded accusations and will not damage the efforts made by the Afghan side to normalize relations between the two countries.

Indian Foreign Ministry Delegation Makes Visit

Confers With Sharq

LD2206221388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with His Excellency Satish Chandra, joint secretary in the Indian Foreign Ministry, who is visiting Kabul at the head of a delegation.

At this meeting, which took place in the presence of Inder Pal Khosla, Indian ambassador to Afghanistan, both sides spoke about the long-lasting relations between the two countries which have further developed and strengthened in recent years and since Esteemed Najubyllah, president of Afghanistan's official and friendly visit to India.

The Indian delegation at this meeting said that as a result of the talks held between Esteemed Najibullah and R. Gandhi, prime minister of the Republic of India, a special team of the Republic of India should visit Afghanistan in order to specify the extent of cooperation in the limited settlement of refugees.

TV Protocol Signed

LD2306025388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] A cooperation program in the area of television was concluded this afternoon between the state committee on radio, television, and cinematography of the Republic of Afghanistan and television of the Republic of India.

According to this program, both countries' television will exchange materials which introduce the life styles of the two countries in various areas and will assist each other in the field of training cadres in various areas of television.

The protocol was signed by Ahamd Bashir Roygar, head of the State Committee for on Radio, Television, and Cinematography, on behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan, and His Excellency Inder Pal Khosla, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Republic of India in Kabul, on behalf of his government.

His excellency Satish Chandra, minister of foreign affairs of India, and his accompanying delegation who are in the country on an official and friendly visit, were also present during the signing of this contract.

Joint Commission Pact Signed

LD2306030388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Documents assessing the eighth joint Afghan-Indian commission on technical, economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation were concluded this afternoon in the Ministry of Planning.

The documents were signed on behalf of Afghanistan by Ahmad Fahim Marufi, deputy minister of planning, and on behalf of the Republic of India by His Excellency Satish Chandra, minister of foriegn affairs of India, in the presence of Mr Sultan Husayn, minister of planning, and His Excellency Inder Pal Khosla, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Republic of India to Kabul, as well as representatives of a number of ministries and departments.

Cuban Delegation Arrives for Talks 22 Jun

LD2206095388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 21, BAKHTAR—The Cuban delegation headed by Manuel Castillo Rebasa, minister of communications, of that country arrived here today to participate in the first sessions of the Afghan-Cuba Joint Technical and Economic Commission.

The delegation was welcomed by Dost Muhammad Fazl, minister of light industries and foodstuffs of Afghanistan at Kabul international airport.

The guest delegation laid a wreath of flowers today at the foot of the Monument of the Martyrs of the Path of the April Revolution.

'Extremist' Group Crushed in Farah Province

LD2206191488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] A group of warmongering extremists who were attempting to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in the surroundings of Sultan-e Bakwah district, Farah Province, were recently crushed by the Armed Forces of the country.

The BAKTHAR military section reported that as a result of this activity, carried out with the cooperation of the people of Bowlakah village, in Sultan-e Bakwah district, this group including their ringleader Mohammad Lal, was crushed. A large amount of ammunition for various weapons, including 10 boxes of ammunition, were seized.

Thousands Volunteer for Military Service

LD2306133488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 22, BAKHTAR—Two thousand and five hundred youths of Kabul city voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces recently.

A representative of Military Commissariat of Kabul city said to our military reporter that in the first quarter of the current Afghan year, (started March 20, 1988) more than eight thousand eight hundred and thirty youths of Kabul city voluntarily joined the Armed Forces.

Opposition Islamic Coalition Official Interviewed

LD2106200588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jun 88

[Text] A press interview given by the official in charge of the Nasr Organization of Afghanistan's [ANO] central office, who is a member of the Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan [ICCA] in that country, is the subject of our first news report:

The Afghan official gave an interview this morning to domestic and foreign reporters. He said: The only practical and possible solution to the future of Afghanistan is the formation of a revolution council with the participation of all effective parties in the struggle—those based in Iran and Pakistan, both Shi'ite and Sunni. Apart from this, anyone who gets involved with only a part of the resistant and popular forces of Afghanistan is doomed to defeat.

Noting the seven-party alliance's plan to form a provisional government, he gave a reminder: The future government of Afghanistan should have comprehensive rule over society, with the participation of all strata of the people and followers of Islam. A monopolistic solution will not solve the problems.

Referring to the ICCA's proposal on the formation of a revolution council, which will be presented in a comprehensive form by the ICCA in the next few days, he said: The duties of the revolution council are to supervise the withdrawal of occupying forces; install revolutionary Muslims in the regions evacuated; formulate a constitution; prepare the ground for general elections to determine the shape of the future government; and administer the country until the elected government of Afghanistan is formed.

While rejecting the agreements reached in Geneva and the plan for Zahir Shah's presence in Afghanistan, he noted: The ICCA believes the Geneva agreement was reached with the two superpowers' consent for the purpose of preventing a victory by the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan. The idea of forming a coalition government with the Kabul regime and bringing back Zahir Shah—who was a factor in the growth of the communists in Afghanistan during his tenure—is utterly rejected by us.

Noting the efforts by the superpowers to eliminate the ICCA from Afghanistan's political equation, he emphasized: More than 30 percent of the territory and population of Afghanistan in the central, northern, and western parts are under the control of mujahidin members of the ICCA.

In conclusion, referring to the possibility that Afghanistan may be divided up between the superpowers and a security belt established by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan's northern province, he sid: The likelihood of such a plot is real, given the defeats of Moscow's efforts to form a coalition government comprised of certain mujahidin and the Kabul regime.

This is especially true since a large part of the gas and rich mineral reserves lie in Afghanistan's northern regions. But we think the Soviet Union has now learned the lesson that one cannot occupy a territory for very long by force, and the fighting people of Afghanistan have proved during these past 8 years that they will not tolerate occupiers and aggressors and will never accept the breakup of their country.

Briefs

USSR Cultural Cooperation

Kabul, June 18, BAKHTAR—An agreement of mutual cooperations between the Writers Union of the Republic of Afghanistan and the House of Science and Culture of the Soviet Union in Kabul was signed here today. On the basis of the agreement the sides will cooperate on different literary and cultural aspects and organising special and ordinary literary functions as well as introducing of prominent contemporary and classic literary figures of the two countries to the peoples of the two countries. [Text] [*LD2006025988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 18 Jun 88*]

Jalalabad Prisoners Released

In accordance with a decree of the presidential office concerning the release of prisoners, 36 prisoners were released today from Jalalabad prison, Nangarhar Province. [Excerpt] [*LD2106025888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jun 88*]

Bangladesh

Talks on Chittagong Hill Tracts Held

BK1906155788 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jun 88

[Text] The fifth meeting between the government and the Chittagong Hill Tracts Jana Sanghati Samity [tribal organization] was held in a cordial atmosphere today. The meeting, lasting 6 hours, discussed the various proposals aimed at solving the problems prevailing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Both sides agreed to continue the discussions.

Begum Khaleda Zia To 'Revamp' Nationalist Party

BK2206065088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0618 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Dhaka, June 22 (AFP)—Opposition leader Khaleda Zia said Wednesday she had dissolved the two key committees of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) she leads so as to revamp the party. Party Secretary General Obaidur Rahman has also been relieved of his post.

A surprise party announcement Tuesday said Begum Zia had dissolved the BNP's 15-member National Standing Committee and the 100-member National Executive Committee.

Begum Zia told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone that she had taken the drastic decision so as to revamp the party and provide "opportunities to others within (the) BNP" to work for it.

She gave no further details but said new committees would be announced soon. Begum Zia had headed both committees.

Party sources said most of the top BNP leaders including Mr. Rahman were unaware of the late night dissolution, announced in a press release signed by Begum Zia and sent to leading local newspapers at midnight Tuesday.

Mr. Rahman had served as a minister under BNP founder President Ziaur Rahman, Begum Zia's husband who was assassinated in 1981.

The BNP was ousted from power in a 1982 bloodless coup led by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, then chief of army staff.

The surprise dissolution of the key committees, which came within a fortnight of a party meeting which ended June 6, was the result of a power struggle between career politicians and former Army officers within the BNP, analysts said.

The June meeting was attended by several thousand representatives from the party's rural committees who reportedly called for revamping the party at the grass-roots level.

Sheikh Hasina Calls Present Parliament 'Illegal'

BK2206115383 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jun 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Lalpur (Natore), June 15—Sheikh Hasina, president of Bangladesh Awami League today made it clear that her party would go for a united movement only with those forces who were vocal against all political killings. She said the Awami League believed in the unity only on the basis of 1972 constitution.

Addressing a public meeting at North Bengal Sugar Mills Maidan, Sheikh Hasina cautioned the government against imposition of new taxes on the people. Calling the present parliament "illegal" she said that the action of this parliament was not mandatory to the people and as such, the people would not pay any tax imposed on them by this parliament.

Referring to the state religion and eighth amendment to the constitution, Sheikh Hasina said that it was aimed at facilitating the fundamentalist forces in the national politics. Eighth amendment, she said, had snatched the independence of the judiciary. She called for resisting the eighth amendment to the constitution.

The Awami League chief alleged that the communal and anti-liberation forces were brought into politics through the fifth amendment to the constitution.

Criticising the present government, she said that the killers of Bangabandhu [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman] were allowed by the government to do politics in the country. She said that the political parties born in the cantonments and from the pockets of the generals were not much vocal against the fundamentalist forces and not willing to establish the values and spirit of the war of liberation.

Exhorting the Awami League workers, she said that Awami League brought the independence of the country and it was the responsibility of the Awami League to preserve and consolidate the independence and sovereignty of the country.

The meeting was addressed among others by Mr Abdus Samad Azad, Mr Abdul Mannan, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hussain Amu and Mr Abdul Jalil. Earlier she addressed a meeting at Bheramara and Paksey. [passage omitted]

India

AFP: 'Minor' Gas Leak Reported at Bhopal

BK2206062288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] New Delhi, June 22 (AFP)—A poisonous gas leak has occurred in the Union Carbide's pesticide Bhopal plant in central India, but authorities said there was no cause for alarm, newspapers said Wednesday.

The "minor" leak of chlorosulfonic acid from one of the field storage tanks of the plant Monday had been quickly and effectively stopped and "there was no cause for alarm," the reports quoted officials as saying.

The plant has been closed since methyl isocyanate (MIC) fumes leaked on the night of December 2-3, 1984, in the world's worst industrial accident, killing some 2,850 people and affecting more than 300,000.

The government of Madhya Pradesh State, of which Bhopal is the capital, had urged New Delhi to arrange for the removal of "all residue chemicals" from the plant to avoid recurrence of similar leaks, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Removal of Chemicals Planned

BK2306035988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] A high-level expert team from New Delhi is going to Bhopal today to assess the nature and quantity of the residual chemicals inside the field storage tanks at the Union Carbide factory. The factory remains closed since the gas leak tragedy in 1984. There were two minor incidents of leakage of residual chemicals on Monday and Tuesday last. The leakage was immediately plugged.

The gas relief commissioner told our Bhopal correspondent that the team will arrange for the same removal of the residual chemicals. According to experts there is no reason for alarm.

Gandhi Interviewed on Domestic, Foreign Issues

PM1906100988 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 7 Jun 88 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by correspondent Muhammad Kanaysi; date, place not given]

[Text] AL-BA'TH: How much progress have you made with regard to the Sikh separatist movement? Do you have a specific plan for solving this problem now that it is clear the Sikh extremists are determined to use violence?

Gandhi: The vast majority of the people of Punjab are totally opposed to the separatist movement led by a few extremists who receive foreign support. The people of Punjab have been at the forefront in defending the country. Moreover, they are renowned for their great enthusiasm and vitality in the province's development process.

The operations we have recently mounted against the extremists who violated the Golden Temple in Amritsar were a serious setback to the plans of these people. I am confident we will be able to solve this problem, thanks to the support we get from all sectors of the Punjab people.

AL-BA'TH: Do you believe that the India-Sri Lanka agreement has provided a radical and final solution to the sectarian problem in Sri Lanka and the resulting violence? Is there anything new in this connection?

Gandhi: The agreement concluded between India and Sri Lanka on 29 July 1987 meets all the Tamils' legitimate aspirations in Sri Lanka within the framework of the country's unity and territorial integrity. Since the signing of that agreement, several steps have been taken to consolidate unity and overcome the effects of sectarianism in Sri Lanka. Regional councils elections will soon take place in the northern and eastern regions and an atmosphere will be created in which citizens will be able to live side by side in peace and harmony. The agreement has isolated the region from foreign forces and has strengthened nonalignment.

AL-BA'TH: How do you assess the current relations between India and Pakistan? Also, what is the extent of the India-Pakistan conflict in the light of India's growing concern over the supply of advanced weapons to Pakistan and support for Pakistan's nuclear program by certain foreign states?

Gandhi: For our part, we have made every possible effort to improve relations with Pakistan according to the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement. However, we are very concerned at Pakistan's encouragement, support, and supply of advanced weapons to the Punjab terrorists. The ongoing, large-scale supply of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan by the United States has forced us to divert allocations for economic development to defense instead. This has added to the tension in the region.

If these shipments were justified in the past because of developments in Afghanistan, there is no longer a clear, reasonable justification for the continued flow of advanced sophisticated arms. There is increasing evidence that Pakistan is steadily pursuing a nuclear program with the aim of possessing nuclear weapons. We have noticed that some countries are in a position to force Pakistan to stop its goal of possessing nuclear weapons but, regrettably, they have not taken any any concrete steps to dissuade Pakistan from pursuing its nuclear program.

AL-BA'TH: How do you view the recent settlement of the Afghan question, bearing in mind that Pakistan has played a direct part in this matter? Also, what effect will this settlement have on the India-Pakistan dispute?

Gandhi: We have welcomed the signing of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan and sincerely hope that all parties will abide by the letter and spirit of these agreements. All countries must be committed to the principle of noninterference to enable the Afghan people to determine their own fate. There have been reports that Pakistan is still interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs, even after the signing of the Geneva accords. We believe that such interference seriously threatens the chances of peace and stability in Afghnistan.

AL-BA'TH: India has on more that one occasion stressed the need to convene an international conference on the Indian Ocean attended by all countries of the region. It has also repeatedly called for the removal of military bases there. In your view, why has such conference not been held thus far?

Gandhi: We are still committed to the implementation of the UN General Assembly's declaration that the Indian Ocean be designated a peace zone. We believe that the best way of achieving this is through an international conference on the Indian Ocean in the near future attended by all parties concerned. It is regrettable that some countries still have reservations over such a conference.

AL-BA'TH: India has been making significant efforts towards nuclear disarmament. What is the current status of the efforts of the states interested in seeing a world free from nuclear weapons, particularly the Soviet Union? What are the main obstacles to achieving this objective?

Gandhi: The main obstacle is the fact that some quarters still believe in the now outdated philosophy of nuclear deterrence. In a nuclear conflict there can be no victor and vanquished. All mankind loses. The Soviet Union is

committed to a world free from nuclear weapons by the end of this century. We wish other nuclear powers would cooperate in pursuit of that aim.

AL-BA'TH: Imperialist circles have often expressed displeasure with the role India has played and is still playing in international politics, particularly India's prominent and effective role in the Nonaligned Movement. These circles are even more annoyed by India's close relations with the Soviet Union and its economic independence. Is there any link between this displeasure and the problems fomented in India, the most serious being the problem of sectarian violence?

Gandhi: Ever since our independence, we have been committed to work for economic development and self-reliance at home, and for the consolidation of world peace and stability. This policy has certainly exposed India to foreign pressures. However, we are sure of our people's support for this policy and are confident that our people will never, of their own free will, abandon our chosen course, whatever the pressures.

AL-BA'TH: The Middle East question is at the top of the list of those issues threatening world peace and security. What, in your view, is the best way to promote a just and lasting solution to that problem in light of the continuing and growing uprising of the Palestinian Arab people on the one hand, and suspect U.S. diplomatic moves in the Middle East on the other?

Gandhi: We strongly condemn the bestial coercion which the Palestinian people are experiencing in the occupied territories. We firmly believe there can be no lasting peace in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations are fulfilled. India favors an international conference on the Middle East under UN supervision and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

AL-BA'TH: Our Palestinian Arab people's uprising is facing savage Zionist oppressive measures seldom seen in history. How do you view the Zionist acts of repression, a serious violation of human rights worldwide, and what is the international community's reaction to these acts?

Gandhi: The heroic struggle of the Palestinian people in the territories occupied by Israel will go down in history as an expression of their will and determination to attain their legitimate rights. Repression cannot subdue the strong spirit of liberation.

AL-BA'TH: How do you view Syria's role, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, in confronting imperialist and Zionist ambitions in the region and in supporting and aiding the causes of people struggling for liberation and progress?

Gandhi: Under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria has played a prominent role not only in the Middle East but also on a wider international level in defending the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, firmly defending the cause of Arab unity and resisting Israeli threats and various challenges, always adhering to its principles and values. The progressive and secular nature of Syria's policy under President Hafiz al-Asad has been a great help in strengthening the forces of peace and stability.

AL-BA'TH: Syria and India are joined by close relations and joint struggle against the enemies of people and in the interests of just peace. How do assess these relations and what are the prospects of this joint struggle?

Gandhi: Indian-Syrian ties are long-standing and historic. Syria and India are united in their commitment to the causes of peace, cooperation, and development. I am confident that this joint commitment will progressively strengthen and consolidate our relations.

Courts Issue Restraining Order to Bofors Agent

BK2206163388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The government has asked the investigating agencies—the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] and the Directorate of Enforcement—to look into the material published in THE HINDU today about the Bofors gun contract.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the government has simultaneously moved the appropriate courts to restrain the Swedish firm's former Indian agent, Mr Win Chadha, from leaving the country.

Chief Minister 'Responsible' for Election Loss

BK2206080688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0654 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] New Delhi, June 22 (AFP)—The chief minister of India's most populous state is on his way out following the victory of a bitter foe of Premier Rajiv Gandhi in a crucial by-election, news reports said Wednesday.

Leaders of Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party were holding Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Vir Bahadur Singh responsible for the landslide win of former Federal Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh in the Allahabad parliamentary constituency by-election Thursday, newspapers reported.

Mr. Vir Bahadur Singh, who was hand-picked by Mr. Gandhi to lead the Congress (I) in Uttar Pradesh, had offered to quit after realising the hostility to him within the party, THE PATRIOT newspaper said in a front-page report.

The chief minister, who flew into New Delhi late Tuesday, had told senior party leaders and defeated Congress (I) candidate Sunil Shastri that he was "willing to step down any time honourably, not disgracefully," the daily added.

Other newspapers quoted Congress (I) observers as saying that the chief minister's failure to curb factionalism and win over different sections of Allahabad's electorate had led to the sweeping win of Mr. Pratap Singh, the joint opposition candidate.

Mr. Pratap Singh, who has dubbed his win a vote against Mr. Gandhi's government, polled more than double the votes secured by Mr. Shastri, a son of late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Congress (I) candidates also lost to the centrist Janata (People's) Party and the rural-based Lok Dal (Masses Party) in the hustings to the Uttar Pradesh legislature from Chaprauli and Tanda constitutencies in the by-elections, seen as a dress rehersal to general elections scheduled for December 1989.

Mr. Gandhi, 44, said Monday that he would shortly announce moves to strengthen his party following the setbacks in the elections to fill seven parliamentary and 11 assembly seats.

"Keeping election results in view and the situation in the states where there have been by-elections, we need to look at the organisation and see how to strengthen it," he said earlier this week in southern India.

News reports suggested the first casualty in the reorgnisation would be Mr. Vir Bahadur Singh, whose rule of Uttar Pradesh has reportedly led to widespread infighting within the Congress (I) in Mr. Gandhi's home state.

THE STATESMAN newspaper Wednesday quoted Congress (I) observers as saying in a report submitted to Mr. Gandhi that the chief minister "had neither any control over the administrative machinery nor the police force" and warned that future elections in the state would also go the opposition's way if he was allowed to continue.

The United News of India (UNI) reported that Mr. Shastri had also held squabbles within the party as mainly responsible for his defeat.

"I was confident of winning, but internal differences became obvious and came to the surface on the polling day when we could not find polling agents at many booths," the news agency quoted him as saying.

Uttar Pradesh, which borders the Indian capital, is a politically sensitive state and is often considered the trendsetter in electoral politics.

The Congress (I) lost three and won two parliamentary constituencies in the by-elections. Results have been withheld pending a decision on disputed votes at a sixth while a repoll has been ordered at a seventh following reports of rigging. But it fared better in state assembly elections, winning five of 10 seats counted.

Safety Committee Reports on Tarapur Atomic Plant

BK2306082088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] The committee set up to review the safety of the Tarapur atomic plant has found that the working conditions at the plant are adequate to permit continued operation. There has been a continuous improvement in the control over radiation exposure at the atomic station and the release of radioactive effluents to the environment has been kept well below the authorized limits.

W. Bengal Chief Minister Lauds China's Attitude

BK2206165688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, says that the present Chinese leadership is interested in sorting out problems with India. Talking to newsmen at Calcutta on his return from a 25-day tour of China and Japan, he said the attitude of the Chinese Government toward India is good because of the political changes there.

He said various bilateral issues, including the border issue, were discussed during his meetings with Chinese leaders.

Machine Building Protocol Signed With USSR

BK2306032988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol for increased cooperation in machine building. This followed discussions held in New Delhi between the Soviet delegation, led by Mr G.B. (Sukhanov), and the Indian side, headed by the secretary, Public Enterprises Department, Mr G.N. Mehra. Both sides felt that there is more scope for enhanced collaboration between Soviet plants and their counterparts in India both in public and private sectors. Exchange of information in electronics-based medical equipment and setting up of joint ventures in both the countries was also discussed.

Briefs

Exports to USSR

India and the Soviet Union today agreed to take steps to increase exports of fruit and vegetable products from India and set up joint ventures in fruit processing. The agreement came after 4 days of discussions between delegations of the two countries. Talks covered among other things, cooperation in soyabean oil extraction,

processing of sunflower seeds, and production of castor oil. The agriculture secretary, Mr C. Srinivasan Shastri, led the Indian delegation, and Mr Kullinch, deputy chairman of the Agroprom, headed the Soviet side. [Text] [*BK1706060988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jun 88*]

Naxalites Attack Maharashtra Railway Station

BK2306031088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] In Maharashtra, a police constable was killed when a group of 25 Naxalites opened fire at a police party near Makodi railway station of Chandrapur District yesterday. The Naxalites also fled away with four rifles and ammunition from the Makodi railway station after snapping communications. However, the South Central Railway authorities have since restored communications. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot.

Death Toll Rises in Amritsar Bombing

BK2206163188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The death toll in last night's bomb blast at Katra Ahluwali in Amritsar has risen to 28 with 5 more persons succumbing to injuries today. A curfew imposed in the walled city and some other areas is continuing.

The superintendent of police said that two bomb-like objects were found at Katra Jaimalsingh in Amritsar today. The area was cordoned off and these objects were defused with the help of Army experts.

The peace committee met today and appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony.

Elsewhere in Punjab, nine persons have been shot dead since last night. In Sangrur District, terrorists gunned down four persons in a village Rajumajra this morning. The same gang later shot dead a motorcyclist and escaped on his motorcycle. A dental surgeon was killed in village Guman and a farmer near Harshian in Gurdaspur District. A local Communist leader was dead at Kotla in Hoshiarpur District.

The security forces have arrested two terrorists and recovered a large quantity of arms during raids carried out yesterday night. The arrested terrorists have been identified as Sanjiv Kumar and Tirth Singh.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

2 'Terrorists' Killed

BK2306034488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] In Punjab, a Congress-I activist, Mr Baldev Krishan, was shot dead by terrorists at Rama Mandi in Bhatinda District last night. He was attacked while returning to his village on a cycle.

Meanwhile, curfew continues in the walled city and some other areas of Amritsar. The situation is reported to be peaceful and under control.

The Border Security Force killed two suspected terrorists in Rajasthan this week. Substantial quantity of arms and ammunition was seized. These include four Chinese AK-47 rifles and over 1,000 rounds of ammunition. The terrorists were trying to sneak into India through the India-Pakistan border on the Sriganganagar-Abohar road. One terrorist was arrested while the fourth escaped.

Curfew Lifted in Amritsar

BK2306090088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] The curfew imposed in the walled city and some other areas of Amritsar on Tuesday has been lifted from 1230 this afternoon. Our correspondent reports from Amritsar that the markets in the area opened immediately after the announcement was made. The situation in the city is peaceful and under control. Curfew will be reimposed only if required.

Iran

Paris, Tehran Appoint New Ambassadors

LD2306112888 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] As a further step in the restoration of diplomatic relations between France and Iran, the future French ambassador to Tehran was appointed this morning. He is Christian Graeff, who negotiated the terms and conditions for the resumption of relations between the two countries in Geneva, with 'Ali Ahani as his Iranian counterpart. Ahani will represent his country in Paris.

France Reportedly To Resume Oil Purchases

NC2306055488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Telephone report by an unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London—recorded]

[Text] French officials announced last night that they are to officially resume oil purchases from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Without giving details, French Government officials stated that a new decision by the French Government concerning this development will be announced in the near future.

Meanwhile, oil industry observers in Europe stated last night that basically, the French oil embargo on Iran was never official and never implemented. They also pointed out that the French Government had merely suggested to French companies that they refrain from purchasing Iranian oil, but that this proposal was never effectively followed.

France's oil imports from Iran account for 10 percent of that country's total oil imports, and France purchased and imported a total of 4.5 million tonnes of oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran during the first 9 months of 1987.

French officials said further that the French Government's new decision to allow oil purchases from the Islamic Republic of Iran should be viewed within the context of the normalization of French-Iranian relations. This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London.

British Parliamentarians Conclude Visit

LD2206082088 Tehran IRNA in English 0717 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—Four British parliamentarians here since Monday flew home Wednesday morning.

During their stay here they met Vice-Speaker of the Majlis Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, Deputy Premier for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Larijani and head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqr Hakim.

The Iranian officials stressed that the big powers should change their hostile policies towards the Islamic Republic of Iran as a pre-condition for re-establishment of relations with Iran.

Members of the team were Thomas Clarke, from Labor Party, Cyril Townsend and Robert Hicks from Conservative Party and Lord Tordoff of Social Liberal Democrats Party.

Urge Improved Relations

LD2306063988 Tehran IRNA in English 0633 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] London, June 23, IRNA—A four-member parliamentary delegation returned from Iran Wednesday urging the British Government to send back a diplomat to Tehran as part of a process of improving relations between the two countries.

It pointed out that Britain was the only country in Europe without any presence in the Iranian capital and hoped that its 3-day mission to Tehran would play a part for better ties in future.

Members of the ruling Conservative Party Cyril Townsend and Robert Hicks, Labour representative Tom Clarke and Lord Tordoff were giving a press conference in London after briefing the archbishop of Canterbury about their trip.

Unanimously they agreed that it had been a good and worthwhile visit to Tehran and that it could only help to improve bilateral relations between the countries.

"We set ourselves limited objectives and I personally think they have been achieved," Townsend said. "We believe that through our discussions with senior members of the (Iran's) administration, we played some part in putting those relations on a better basis."

He felt that there might be some profound differences between the Islamic Republic and the British Conservative Party but that did not rule out that there was common ground and added that he made it clear to Iran that all the London government's policies were not dictated by the "great Satan."

Britain had repeatedly condemned Iraq for its use of chemical weapons, Townsend said and went on to describe the "really horrific" condition of soldiers he had seen in a Tehran hospital as a result of recent Iraqi attacks.

Hicks said that the aim of the mission was not to negotiate but to "create a better climate of environment for others to build-up" and the mission had been successful.

He emphasised several times that Iran had made the point that the British Government should condemn Iraq for starting the war and stay absolutely neutral in the war and intimated that he would be stressing this to the Foreign Office.

The visit was organised by the archbishop of Centerbury's envoy John Lyttle and led to suggestions, which they all strenuously denied, that they had gone to Iran to gain its influence in obtaining the release of Terry Waite and two other Britons from Lebanon.

Lyttle emphasised that Iran had its own hostages held in Beirut for six years and the grief and traumas of their families was no less than that of the British.

He said he had promised Iran that they would do anything they could through official and unofficial channels, including the Church of England, to discover what has happened to missing Iranians.

Lord Tordoff pointed out that although some of the group in Lebanon may be sympathetic to the Islamic Revolution it did not mean that Iran had control over them and were certainly not pulling any strings.

He said that he could not predict any sequence of events but felt that there was "genuine belief" that the visit was useful and had contributed to a "change in the climate" between the two countries.

After the conference, Tordoff further indicated that he intended to take up with the government its position on the Iraqi war, which he felt had been "very coy" and that he would press for it to condemn Iraq for initially starting the war.

Soviet Special Envoy on 'Good' Relations

LD2306112488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] The special Soviet envoy to the Persian Gulf region said today that the Soviet Union, which has 40 million Muslims living in its southern regions, wants good relations with Iran. According to REUTER news agency, Ernest Zverev, the Soviet ambassador in Kuwait and Moscow's special envoy to the Persian Gulf, announcing this piece of news in Bahrain, said: The Soviet Union has a long border with Iran and 40 million Muslims live in its southern republics, some of whom sympathize with Iran.

Ernest Zverev went on to describe the Soviet Union's position on U.S. efforts to impose an arms embargo on Iran. He said: An arms embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran will be totally fruitless. REUTER reported that some Persian Gulf countries have supported an arms embargo on Iran but Moscow and the other members of the UN Security Council have resisted U.S. pressure to implement this embargo.

Ernest Zverev, who is the first Soviet diplomat to visit Bahrain, is due to return to Kuwait after discussions with high-ranking Bahraini officials.

Further Reportage on Visit of DPRK Premier

Trade Ministers Confer

NC2206115088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] We begin our news with a report on the meeting between the DPRK minister of foreign trade and our country's minister of commerce.

In this meeting the DPRK Minister of Foreign Trade, Choe Chong-kun, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its assistance to the DPRK despite the imposed war, and expressed his hopes for a gradual increase in trade between the two countries. He proposed that the level of exchange value be raised to $500 million.

The DPRK minister of foreign trade also expressed his country's readiness to export trawlers, iron sheets, (?lathes), motor pumps, zinc sheets, and electronic machinery to Iran. He added that his country is prepared to build ships having more than 10,000-ton capacity for Iran, and is interested in the purchase of sulfur, cast iron, mineral ores, chromium, and other commodities.

The DPRK minister of foreign trade invited [Commerce Minister] Abedi-Ja'fari to visit his country.

Mr Abedi-Ja'fari stressed the fact that the needs of the two countries could be filled by each other. He referred to the increase in the volume of trade exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Third World countries, which stood at 3 percent before the Islamic Revolution and increased to 20 percent in its aftermath. He said: Following the revolution, our policy has become more inclined to purchase and import essential and basic goods required in the country. On the issue of the volume of exchange between the two countries, he said: There is no restriction on increasing the level of exchange, even to a few hundred million dollars, in order to increase the trade of required goods.

In conclusion, Mr Abedi-Ja'fari thanked the DPRK minister of foreign trade for the invitation to his country and asked the DPRK to participate in the Tehran International Trade Fair.

Visits 'Iran-Khodro' Plant

LD2206151788 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—Visiting Prime Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Yi Kun-mo and his entourage visited "Iran Khodro" auto complex here Wednesday.

The DPRK delegation was accompanied by several high-ranking Iranian officials, among them Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri and Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi.

During the visit, Premier Yi and his companions were briefed on the annual production of cars, mini-buses, buses and other types of vehicles manufactured by Iran-Khodro complex.

The DPRK premier also held talks with Navabi on ways of expanding Tehran-Pyongyang cooperation in the fields of industry, transfer of technology and exchange of commodities.

Mr. Yi praised Iranian experts for the innovations and extraordinary talent they have shown in the industrial field since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Meets With Khamene'i

LD2206153088 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—Premier Yi Kun-mo of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), currently here at the head of a top-level delegation, met with President 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday and conveyed to him the warm and friendly messages of DPRK President Kim Il-song.

The DPRK prime minister said that President Kim Il-song is keen on expanding and strengthening Tehran-Pyongyang ties in various fields and noted that his government attaches great importance to its friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Premier Yi, blasting the imperialist U.S. for its blatant intervention in the Persian Gulf, felt confident taht the Iranian people, inspired by the Islamic Revolution, will gain further successes in achieving their goals.

He also announced his country's preparedness to promote ties with the Islamic Republic in various fields.

In response, President Khamene'i, referred to the common political goals and resistance of the two peoples and governments against global arrogance, particularly the imperialist U.S. and thanked Pyongyang for supporting the just stance of the Islamic Republic.

The president, castigating the U.S. for its conspiracies to foment tension between the two Koreas, reaffirmed Iran's full-fledged support for Pyongyang's stance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has never been, and will not be intimidated by U.S. military build-up in the Persian Gulf although this has scared many countries in the world, Khamene'i said.

"Our people's heroic resistance against the U.S. has not only served to defeat it militarily and politically but has also damaged its prestige before the world," the president said.

Khamene'i said that the U.S. is supporting the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in its war against Islamic Iran because of its concern that the Islamic Republic will eventually be looked upon as a "progressive power" in the region.

At the end of the meeting, the DPRK premier on behalf of President Kim Il-song extended an invitation to President Khamene'i to pay an official visit to Pyongyang, to which the latter expressed hope that he could pay the visit to an appropriate time.

Naval Commander Comments on Combat Readiness

LD2206175988 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., June 22, IRNA—The first ever tugboat manufactured by self-sufficiency Jihad experts of the Iranian naval forces will be launched into the Persian Gulf within the next few days.

Commander of the Islamic Republic's Navy Rear-Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan announcing the above here Wednesday said the Navy has an active presence in the strategic waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, despite unfounded propaganda by global arrogance.

The Navy has enhanced its combat readiness, said the commander adding, today the Navy is able to powerfully carry out its missions in the farthest reaches of this sensitive region.

Rear-Admiral Malekzadegan adverting to global arrogance's plots for depriving Iran of its economic resources in the southern waters said his personnel by their technical innovations have been able to repel 90 percent of Iraqi attacks. The Iraqi attacks, he noted, are supported and coordinated by the superpowers.

The naval commander said Iranian supply routes in the region are completely safe and free and noted that the smallest movement by Iraqi naval forces and those of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman are under the Navy's firm control.

Deplores Tension in Gulf

LD2206184388 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov, June 22, IRNA—Navy Commander Rear-Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan today described the aggressive presence of arrogant powers in the Persian Gulf as the "main cause of tension" in the region.

Speaking at a flag hoisting ceremony at a naval base in this Caspian city, Malekzadegan warned that as long as foreign military forces maintain their presence in the Persian Gulf, security will not return to this vital waterway.

Despite global arrogance's full-fledged support for the Ba'thist regime ruling Baghdad, the remnants of the Iraqi Navy can never dare to venture out in the Persian Gulf, the commander said.

The rear admiral said that despite Washington's direct involvement in the war on the side of the Baghdad regime with a view to dealing blows on Iran's vital economic resources, the heroic resistance of Iranian naval forces frustrated the U.S. in its sinister plot.

Commenting on the escort of ships by foreign naval fleets, the Navy commander said the daring presence of Iranian naval personnel in the region has frustrated the conspiracy of global arrogance.

On "Zolfiqar-3" maneuvers staged by the armed Iranian forces in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in May, the rear-admiral said the military exercises displayed the Navy's combat capability of going into action even deep inside international waters.

IRGC Establishes New Division, Brigade

LD2206145888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The I Corps of the Ground Forces of the IRGC plans to expand its combat organizations to maximize the country's existing resources in the service of the war. To this end the IRGC has set up the 71st Ruhollah Mechanized Infantry Division in the central region, and also the 15th Imam Hasan Mojtaba Urban Brigade for chemical defense.

According to an IRNA report, in announcing the above, the chief of staff of the I Sarallah Corps said in an interview with reporters: In the near future new units comprising the elite mobilization forces and the IRGC will be set up all over Tehran Province.

He also said: The I Sarallah Corps, in order to recruit the manpower required for its 13 units, has planned an extensive dispatch of volunteers on 15 Tir [6 July]—the anniversary of the martyrdom of 72 friends of the imam of the ummah—from the regions and units of Arak, Qom, Karaj, Shahr-e Rey, Varamin, Eslamshahr, Shemiranat, Damavand, Firuz Kuh, Eshtehard, Shahryar, Taleqan, Khomeyn, Saveh, Mahallat, Savojbolagh, Robat-e Karim, (Lavasanat), Ashtian, Tafresh, and the bases of Abu Zar, Meqdad, (Malk-e Ashtar), and Shahid Beheshti.

He invited all the trained forces, and those who have been dispatched before to present themselves to the resistance bases of the mobilization forces and register their names as soon as possible.

Construction Jihad's Landing Craft Launched

LD1806040988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jun 88

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, on the anniversary of the establishment of the Construction Jihad the largest landing craft built by the Construction Jihad was launched in Bandar-e 'Abbas. According to the Central News Unit, the craft, which was launched this morning in special ceremonies, weighs 200 tons.

In addition to performing various various naval operations it can also transport more than 250 tons of cargo. When needed by the Construction Jihad or for transporting equipment to the fronts it can speedily and with great maneuverability load and unload different types of loaders and bulldozers and heavy machinery. This vessel, which is called "Sea Lion-101," was designed and built in 1 year by the experts of the engineering section of the War Support Department of the Construction Jihad in the Nuh-e Nabi shipyard.

Damaged F-14 Successfully Repaired

LD1806040388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] A Central News Unit correspondent reports from Esfahan on the test flight of one of the fighter aircrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran: The first test flight of a repaired F-14 aircraft, which had been set on fire in the course of a war mission, was successfully undertaken today in one of the bases of our Islamic homeland by that base's technical unit in the presence of Brigadier General Sattari, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force commander. According to the Central News Unit, the electronic system of the aircraft suffered in a fire 11 months ago. It was immediately transfered to base and either repaired or fitted with exchange parts by the technical personnel of the base after (?9,000) hours non-stop work and 5 kms of wire and a number of spare parts.

JORDAN TIMES Cites INLA Communique

JN2306130088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23-24 Jun 88 pp 1, 5

[Text] Baghdad (Agencies)—Iraq said Wednesday it had recaptured four strategic mountain peaks and 20 other heights in three days of fighting with Iranian forces in northeastern Iraq.

A high command communique read over Baghdad television said troops of the First Army Corps launched a "sweeping offensive" at midnight Monday in the rugged Kurdish area.

They had driven the Iranians from strategic areas captured by Iran three months ago near the northeastern city of Al-Sulaymaniyah.

The communique said Iraqi troops recaptured Safra and Pasveh and the strategic mountains of Karda Rash [placename as published] and Parda Sour [placename as published], along with surrounding peaks.

A communique telexed from the rebel headquarters in Baghdad to the JORDAN TIMES in Amman Wednesday said the rebel forces pulled out of Mehran and back across the border into Iraq Tuesday night.

Further south in the Gulf war battlefront, Iraqi-based Iranian rebels said they have pulled back from a border town seized in a three-day offensive into western Iran, along with an arsenal of captured tanks, missiles and other hardware worth an estimated $2 billion.

The offensive, codenamed "Operation Forty Stars," was the rebels' biggest assault since they formed the National Liberation Army (NLA) a year ago around the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the main Iranian movement opposed to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

The communique claimed 8,000 Iranian regular troops and Revolution Guards were killed or wounded and more than 500 captured.

By the NLA's account, that totalled more than half of the estimated 16,000 Iranians in the 11th Revolution Guards Division and the 16th Armoured Division they went up against.

Iran has conceded that its troops came under attack, but said the assault was repulsed, with thousands of enemy casualties.

The NLA communique said that reinforcements sent to back up the government forces around Mehran, including the Zolfiqar Division, formerly known as Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's elite Imperial Guards, were routed.

The NLA said its losses were 71 killed and 240 wounded.

The rebels, using tanks captured from the Iranians in earlier battles, cut the Iranians' main supply routes in the sector and blew up two bridges.

Reporters with the NLA said truck convoys hauling the booty back across the border jammed roads in the sector.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,241

LD2206173388 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—Iranian fighter bombers heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Mawat region, northeastern Iraq, at 07:35 hours local time (04:05 GMT) Wednesday, inflicting considerable losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

The 3241st Joint Staff communique, announcing the above, reported here today that all fighters returned safely to bases after succesfully carrying out the mission.

Iranian Air Force jets also carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Tuesday during which they reconnoitered 22 vessels.

On Tuesday, Iranian naval units protecting southern Iranian islands and oil rigs yesterday, destroyed an Iraqi vessels during a clash with several enemy vessels at the northern tip of the Persian Gulf, destroying an enemy vessel.

On the battlefields, an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements destroyed in artillery duels with Iran's Muslim combatants yesterday.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in zones of their influence Tuesday, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

In the northwestern and western sectors Tuesday, heavy fire of Iranian combatants checked activities of Iraqi armoured units in Kelaleh and Sumar sectors, and enemy logistical operations in Hajj 'Umran, Alvatan, Sar Dasht and Marivan regions, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Planes Violate Airspace

LD2306111488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] This morning aircraft of the warmongering Iraqi regime violated the airspace of Khuzestan, Hamadan, Kordestan, and Lorestan Provinces and bombed a number of industrial installations and a residential area. As a result of the bombing of a residential area in the suburbs of Ahvaz, one of our civilian compatriots was martyred and four cars damaged. There is no further information available yet about other possible martyrs and wounded or the amount of damage inflicted.

During the enemy violation of the airspace of Kordestan and Hamadan Provinces, the aircraft broke the sound barrier over the cities of Sanandaj, Nahavand, and Malayer.

Briefs

Drugs Seized; Smugglers Arrested

Following the implementation on Monday of the Wa al'Adiat [those who run] plan of the Islamic Revolution Committee aimed at destroying narcotics manufacturing and distribution networks, the IRGC of the Tehran Province Islamic Revolution Committee smashed a large number of narcotics smuggling gangs, arrested hundreds of smugglers and addicts, and seized 500 kg of narcotics. An IRNA report, quoting the Islamic Revolution Committee of Tehran Province, says: During the past 2 days 495 kgs of opium, 30 kg of liquid opium, 4 kg of heroin, 425 rolls of opium, 2 kg of hashish, three Colt revolvers, and 5 million rials in cash have been seized. [Text] [*LD2306013688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 22 Jun 88*]